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REC-85

FEAR, HATRED, SUSPICION AT HOME

By MARQUIS CHILDS

U.S. AWAKE TO FASCIST DANGER

WASHINGTON—How dangerous to the wellbeing of the U.S., and to its position as leader of the free world, are the radicals of the right?

This is a question being asked in Washington seriously as these radicals increasingly resort to the tactics of the Communists and the crypto-Communists of the thirties.

MARQUIS CHILDS

They practise character assassination without regard for the truth. They spread fear, hatred and suspicion. They advocate infiltration of non-political U.S. organizations such as the Parent-Teacher Association and the taking over of those organizations.

In some respects these radicals on the extreme right more nearly resemble the fanatical subverters of Germany and Italy who brought nazism and fascism into being.

They are often allied with the white citizens' councils, identifying integration with communism.

And at the extreme end of the spectrum they are openly anti-Semitic, often referring in propaganda leaflets to the Jewish-Communist conspiracy.

A few years ago this would have been dismissed as merely another manifestation of what Theodore Roosevelt so aptly called the lunatic fringe—this time on the right rather than the left.

But with the rise of the John Birch Society and its intrusion into politics that is not so easy to do.

Drive for Power

Founded by Robert Welch, a former Massachusetts candy manufacturer, the Birch Society now claims nearly 100,000 members with chapters in most states and a goal of a million members paying dues of $12 for women and $24 for men.

They are pledged to accept the discipline of Welch, and many of their operations are secret.

Welch's secretly circulated book, "The Politician"—now reportedly withdrawn because it alarmed some members—has been compared to "Mein Kampf" if only in the Hitlerian view that the greater the lie the more likely that simple minds will fall victim to it.

He calls every president beginning with Franklin Roosevelt a Communist.

Of the Eisenhower brothers he writes: "While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct."

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
SE File 100-24754
BU File 62-104401

THE VANCOUVER SUN
VANCOUVER, B.C.
3-29-61
Page 4 Col. 1

SEATTLE DIVISION

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"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Both the late John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, are called Communists, with the latter ranking next to former president Eisenhower in his power of concealment.

Birch Society members have used their pressure techniques to force the showing of the House un-American activities film, "Operation Abolition." And they have denounced as Communists anyone questioning its accuracy or daring to suggest that the committee may have exceeded its rights.

Weapon of Fear

For popular U.S. officeholders this is perhaps no more than a nuisance.

But for citizens—professors, clergymen and others—with a conviction of their right to speak critical and unpopular views, it can mean community distrust, a small business harmed, or even a job lost.

The silence of fear is the alternate penalty the radicals of the right try to impose.

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Group Assailed in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. UPI — The John Birch Society was the target of both the executive and legislative branches of the California government today.

The California Attorney General's office was reported to be making an investigation of the society, and one lawmaker testified it "reminds us very much" of the Hitler organization in Germany before World War II.

Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk warned in a speech before the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce that "fanatical groups on the extreme right" must be as closely checked as the Communists, for they are "equally dangerous to democracy."

He gave six tests by which he said people could determine whether an organization advocated an extremist doctrine.

1. Does the organization attack churches and schools with blanket accusations.

2. Does it attack other traditional American institutions with wild, unsupported charges.

3. Does it label everyone with whom it disagrees politically as un-American or subversive?

4. Does it try to rewrite modern history by blaming American statesmen for wars, communism, depression and other world ills?

5. Does it resort to crude pressure tactics such as anonymous phone calls and letter-writing.

6. Do the spokesmen of the group appear more interested in the size of their money collections than in the principles they purport to espouse.

"Apply these six tests," he said, "and you will avoid entangling memberships with such groups as the American Nazi Party, the Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society, the Cinema Education Guild, the Muslims and others of that type."

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Amarillo, Texas

March 29, 1961

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UPI-176
(BIRCH)
DEVILS LAKE, N.D.--DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN S. B. HOCKING ASKED ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY TO START A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.
HOCKING SAID THE SOCIETY IS "ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES DETRIMENTAL TO THE WELFARE OF THE UNITED STATES."
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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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Report Ready on Birch Quiz

By PETER TRIMBLE

Attorney General Stanley Mosk will give Governor Edmund G. Brown a secret report on the activities of the ultra-conservative John Birch Society before the end of this week, The Examiner learned yesterday.

Mosk, who has been investigating the group's activities in California since March 21, refused to disclose his findings or even hint at the conclusions he will present to the Governor.

Extremist

The Attorney General, however, already has publicly grouped the Birch Society with such extremist organizations as the American Nazi Party, Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, the Cinema Educational Guild and the Black Muslim movement.

As Mosk prepared his report to Brown, the society—dedicated to fighting what it believes is Communist influence on persons in high places—was attacked by a legislator in Sacramento.

Assemblyman Gordon H. Winton, Democrat of Merced, declared the group "reminds us very much" of the Hitler organization in Germany before World War II.

The statement was made as the Assembly Rules Committee opened hearings on Winton's proposal asking that U. S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy investigate the society.

"This is an organization to fight Communists," said Winton. "The Hitler organization started out the same way, and attracted some very respectable businessmen. But it resulted in something even

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Mosk Study Near End

Secret Birch Report to Brown Soon

worse than Communism or at least is bad."

The lawmaker said the Birch Society was "genuinely dangerous" because it "can easily step over the bounds of saying things and move into the ground of overt activities."

Assemblyman Richard Hanna, Democrat of Fullerton, indicated that when the committee has a full dress hearing on the Winton proposal scheduled for Thursday he will oppose the resolution.

IN OPPOSITION

"I cannot see us as playing our proper role in repeaching these people on what they believe unless they have committed some overt act," Hanna told the committee. "We have to say that all voices must be heard."

Hanna predicted the society eventually would disband. "It will have broken its stick on the basic fairness of the people of the United States," he said.

Committee Chairman Augustus Hawkins, Democrat of Los Angeles, set the Thursday hearing and said consideration will be given at the same time to a resolution by Assemblyman John A. O'Connell, Democrat of San Francisco, denouncing the society.

IN 34 STATES

The society, which has its most active California chapters in Santa Barbara and Orange Counties, claims to have similar organizations in 34 States.

While it has been in existence since 1958, it drew little attention until recently when its attacks on leaders in Government and religion — some of whom were termed Communist dupes — brought it nationwide publicity.

The society's two chief current targets are Chief Justice Earl Warren and the National Council of Churches.

The John Birch Society was formed on Dec. 8, 1958, by Robert Welch, a retired Boston candy manufacturer in a speech before 11 business leaders in Indianapolis.

Welch, in what has been published as the organization's "Blue Book," declared the United States was in danger of being turned over to "collectivism" and called for an organization dedicated to "less government and more responsibility to build a better world."

Toward that end, he preached, the United States was originally established as a republic, not as a democracy. Since it has become a democracy there must be restraints imposed on the ability of the people to rule themselves or it will run wild.

As examples of what he thinks is happening to the country, Welch has listed persons who, he says, may be unwittingly aiding the Communist conspiracy. They are virtually a "Who's Who in Government."

MEN AT TOP

In addition to Warren, those blasted include President Eisenhower, Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Gen. George C. Marshall.

Welch borrowed his name for the activist group from John Birch, a fundamentalist Baptist missionary who was a wartime military intelligence captain with Gen. Claire Chennault, a charter member of the society.

Birch was killed by Chinese 10 days after V-J Day, and with his death, Welch said "the battle lines were drawn in a struggle from which either Communism or Christian-style civilization must emerge with one completely triumphant and the other completely destroyed."

While the membership of the Birch Society is not known, one of the places where the members can be counted on the fingers of one hand is San Francisco.

Welch attempted to organize a chapter here in 1959.

during a two-day seminar at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. The meeting, coincidentally, was called to order as Nikita Khrushchev was leaving the same hotel following his visit here.

Some 30 persons attended the meeting, including retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone. But the movement did not catch on here and Stone moved to Los Angeles, where Welch's theories found a more enthusiastic welcome.

One of those at the original meeting here was Mrs. Dorothy Schoonmaker, a housewife and mother of two children, who has known Welch personally since 1955 and has been an ardent follower of his since the society was founded.

She said she knows of only two or three friends here who are members of the organization. The Police Department Intelligence Unit estimates there may be five or six members here and eight or 10 in Berkeley.

Mrs. Schoonmaker is appalled to find the Birch group linked with extremist movements.

"To have people call you ultra-conservative and right-wing just because you are for individual freedom is terrible," she said yesterday. "Anti-Communism is not the ultimate aim of the Birch Society. It is less government."

Admitting that Welch "is wordy" and that some of the things he says could best be left unsaid, Mrs. Schoonmaker declared, "I haven't found anything wrong with what he has said.

"We aren't advocating the overthrow of the Government," she added, "we are supporting it."

Regarding Welch's charges against Warren, she said Welch "does not feel that Warren is a Communist. He feels that some of the Supreme Court decisions have broken the meaning of the law as outlined by the Constitution."

On Eisenhower—"He is nice person who shouldn't have been the leader of our country."

Mrs. Schoonmaker admitted that some of the tactics advocated by Welch were similar to the infiltration tactics and use of front groups used by the Communists.

"But what we have been doing in the past hasn't worked with the Communists. We join the P-TA and similar organizations. We support any good organization, such as the Christian Anti - Communist Crusade.

AMERICAN WAY

"We work through letter writing," said Mrs. Schoonmaker. "That is the American way."

Bombarding congressman and senators, with letters appears to be one of the Birch Society's main activities, directed by Welch from his Belmont, Mass., headquarters, and by a 26-member national council of the organization.

In Washington, Senator Milton R. Young of North Dakota told the Senate he had received "many requests" for information regarding the Birch Society and also some demands for a Senate investigation of it.

WHISPERS

Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming said that during a recent visit to Phoenix, Ariz., he found that city "torn badly within because of agitation and whispers stirred up in the name of this society." McGee declared it is "time the searchlight of truth" be turned on the group.

In Beverly Hills, Paul H. Talbert, a member of the Birch Society's National Council, assailed what he termed the "gratuitous and unsolicited concern" of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has declared its opposition to a proposed State Senate probe of the organization.

Talbert said the society would "welcome" an investigation and added, "We will not invoke the constitutional provision against self-incrimination as so many of the clients of the ACLU are prone to do."

Many conservatives who might otherwise share Welch's political and economic views have criticized him for apparently believing that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

They cite, for example, a 1958 Welch article in his magazine, "American Opinion," asserting that among pro-Communist activities was the "snatching of the Republican nomination" from the late Senator Robert Taft in 1952. Thsi, Welch claimed, was accomplished "by purchase, theft, secret deals and other tactics more foul than had ever before appeared in American politics."

KENNEDY HIT

In a later article, his views on President John F. Kennedy—before his election—were reflected when he wrote about what he characterized as "an amoral man." Without mentioning the then Senator Kennedy by name, Welch wrote:

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church. But, as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind-the-scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amoun of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here.

"And any similarity of characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

A drive to obtain the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren is the biggest of the current Birch Society projects. In the latest issue of his periodical, Welch, a native of the South, aims a heavy blast at the Supreme Court's 1954 school desegregation decision. He contends this stepped up Dixieland's racial disorders, which he says stem from Communist planning, and Welch writes:

"There is plenty of evidence that we already have the pot of the Warren impeachment boiling."

California's U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel reported he has received some 200 "impeach Warren" letters. Kuchel has denounced the society's drive as "contemptible and vicious."

ANNUAL DUES

How does the Birch Society finance itself? Its male members pay dues of $24 a year and the woman pay $12, with life memberships available for $1,000. It also solicits contributions, particularly from members or sympathizers who are wealthy or prominent.

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FROM

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New York Journal-American
2 Wed., Mar. 29, 1961 ★

ULTRACONSERVATIV GROUP ASSAILE

Birch Society Called Ike, Dulle

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
By United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year, began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community...he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men.

"He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President...and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers...."

THOMAS MORE STORKE, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly a United States senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert Welch, 61, of Belmont, Mass.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Mr. Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

In Santa Barbara itself, blessed as few communities in the nation with the comforts of both nature and material wealth wealth, several active chapters of the semi-secret society were studying Communism at private meetings and looking around town for "Communists" to expose.

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so." Mr. Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact, Mr. Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Holds Democracy Political Fraud

The society is, in itself, an authoritarian society. Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian". Mr. Welch is far from completely sold on the form of government we now have.

As for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

THOMAS M. STORKE
Opposes Birch Society

SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG
Speaks Up in Senate

Date of paper: 3-29-61

162-104401A
NOT RECORDED
191 APR 1961

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Birch Group Called 'Fanatic Rightists'

Special to the N. Y. Journal-American

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 29.—California Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk, who is probing The John Birch Society under orders of Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, this week called the organization a "fanatic group of the extreme right."

The Society, a right-wing, strongly anti-Communist group, has come under sweeping attack in many parts of the State during the past few months—particularly in Southern California.

Gov. Brown ordered the probe, he said, "because fascism is just as dangerous as communism."

Mr. Mosk declined to give any indication of what his probe was seeking until he reports to the Governor. "That will be within 10 days," he said.

EXTREMELY ACTIVE

He did say, however, the Society has been extremely active in the areas of Santa Barbara, San Diego, Santa Ana, Orange and Los Angeles counties.

In Santa Barbara, wealthy residents reportedly are providing strong backing for the Society. A storm of controversy has arisen in both church and educational circles in the community.

On the religious front, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated this "suspect" category:

1. Does it attack churches and schools with blanket accusations?

2. Does it attack other traditional American institutions with wild, unsupported charges?

3. Does it label everyone Un-American or subversive with whom it disagrees politically?

4. Does it try to rewrite modern history by blaming American statesmen for wars, communism, depressions and all other ills of the world?

6. Do the spokesmen for the pressure tactics by such means as anonymous phone calls and letter-writing campaigns?

6. Do the spokesman for the group appear more interested in the size of their money collections than in the principals they purport to espouse?

"Apply these six tests," said Mr. Mosk, "and you will avoid entangling yourself in memberships and contributions to such groups."

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THE READER'S CHOICE

The Journal-American Has the Greatest Circulation in the Evening Field

By Mr. Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts.

The U.S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Mr. Welch's accusations against Mr. Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of."

A little over three weeks after Mr. Storke's editorial Chancellor Samuel B. Gould of the University of California at Santa Barbara, speaking at a university banquet, said a "new type" of secret student organization had been set up on the campus whihc encourages students to become informers and take on the tasks of "security agencies." It is understood he referred to the Birch Society.

An issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Mr. Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

John Birch had nothing to do with the group. He was a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

In Mr. Birch's name members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as PTAs and chambers of commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-Communist.

These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

Mr. Welch was born in North Carolina, Dec. 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism."

He spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James A. Welch Co., headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

Founded Group In December '58

He was a director of the National Assn. of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization, and three former presidents of the NAM are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On Jan. 1, 1957, his biography says, he "gave up most of his business responsibilities and most of his income in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

The John Birch Society was founded almost two years later, on Dec. 9, 1958, at Indianapolis. A two-day speech which Mr. Welch delivered, is today the "Blue Book" of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods.

It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine, "American Opinion," which Mr. Welch founded before the society and of which he is editor.

The message and aim is: "Less government, more responsibility and a better world."

All Opponents In "Conspiracy"

Mr. Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th century.

But unlike many who share his desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy.

It would, he claims, change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Mr. Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Soviet supremacy is, in Mr. Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot.

"In other words, under the guise of fighting Communism, we are being stamped into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

The conservative Los Angeles Times, in an editorial signed by publisher Otis Chandler on March 12, saw an implication of sedition in Mr. Welch's statements.

The editorial said:

"The Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won—and we do believe it can be won—by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometimes disagree."

Nature of Red Threat to U.S Outlined by Lee in Address

By JOHN THOMPSON
Of The Commercial Staff

William L. (Jerry) Lee of Amarillo, Tex., a retired Air Force general outlined the nature of the Communist threat to America last night in a free public lecture sponsored by the Pine Bluff Citizens Council.

Lee explained that communism is "revolutionary and dictatorial socialism" aimed at the elimination of individual freedom and dignity on which America is founded. He stated that the essence of the movement is ever-increasing state power.

"Communism advocates state ownership of property, state planning, the determination of wages and the elimination of personal income," he said.

Lee expressed the opinion that communism is especially attractive to intellectuals because of its promise of a classless society. He said social science teachers, for example, turn to communism because they envy the financial success of others.

After giving a brief historical review of the Communist movement, in which he traced the roots of Russian Bolshevism back to the United States of 1872, he outlined the methods by which communism is seeking power today in Asia, Europe and the United States.

"For 15½ years," he said, "the Communists have enslaved 7,000 subjects every hour. They have taken over one third of the world and of its population."

Among those whom Lee associated with the Communist movement abroad were India's Premier Jawaharlal Nehru, Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nassar and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

"The opinion molders would have you believe Nehru is a dynamic neutralist, Nasser an Arab nationalist and Castro an agrarian reformer. They would have had you believe the same thing about Mao Tse Tung 20 years ago," he commented.

Lee said the Communist Party in the United States has plans to divide the country into four po-

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5 - INTERSEC

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
COMMUNIST MATTERS

LRFILE: 100-3396

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PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL XX
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS GAZETTE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
DATE 3-29-61
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lice states at an early date.

"This may happen before Kennedy completes his first administration, and 1960 may have been our last free election," said Lee. "Already one fourth of the United States has been taken over."

Lee mentioned a number of factors that lead him to believe communism is on the rise in America: Labor, which controls the nation's communications system—including lines to Air Force bases—are infiltrated by Communists; textbooks fail to report America's history in a true light; many newspapers are largely controlled by Communists: the United Nations is a haven for Communist agents; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a Communist organization attempting to initiate conflict between white and Negro.

"Not until the infamous decision by the Warren cesspool court did they (the NAACP) have a tool to work with," Lee said.

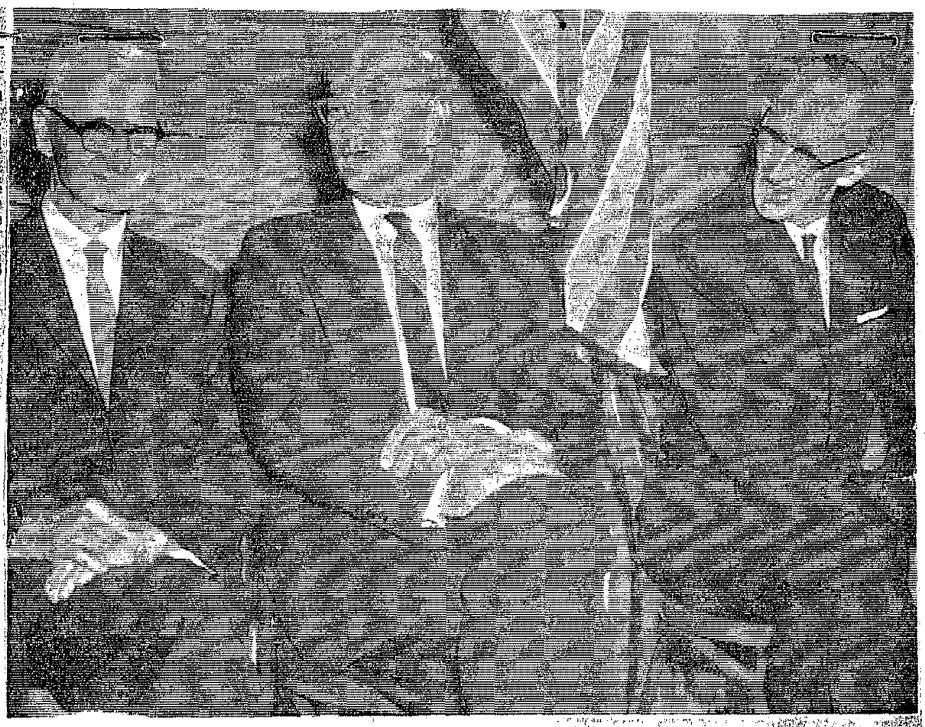
In this connection, Lee suggested that United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren and Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter be impeached. Frankfurter, he said, "was helping the Communists way back in 1909."

The John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization of which Lee is West Texas coordinator, favors the impeachment of Warren.

Lee remarked that the early career of President John F. Kennedy, as well as his recent cabinet appointments, indicated that Kennedy had "helped the Communist cause."

Asked to explain this statement, Lee cited Kennedy's opposition to student loyalty oaths and his appointment of Secretary of State Dean Rusk, whom Lee said had aided the Communists when he was assistant secretary of state in the Truman administration.

Lee was introduced by Citizens Council President L. D. Poynter. There were several estimates on the attendance. A reporter guessed 120. Hendrix Rowell, the man who arranged the meeting for the council, said an actual count revealed 258, and Lee himself estimated the crowd at about 100.



Commercial Staff

CONFERENCE BEFORE LECTURE

L. D. Poynter, right, president of the Pine Bluff Citizens Council, confers with William L. (Jerry) Lee, center, a representative of the John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization, and Marvin H. Hamilton of Pine Bluff, an outspoken critic of desegregation.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

~~Semi-Secret Group~~ Fights Communism But With Big How?

(The methods of the John Birch Society in fighting Communism have stirred controversy in many U.S. cities. A UPI special reporting team was assigned to investigate its purposes, operations and opposition.

(This is the first of three articles.)

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community . . . he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men. He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President . . . and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers."

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___ Boston American, Boston, Mass.
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Headquarters Churns Controversy
On a Quiet Suburban Avenue

Belmont Man's Society Stirs U.S. Furor

ON A QUIET STREET in Belmont, opposite the town swimming and play area, is the national headquarters of the John Birch Society, a semi-secret group dedicated to exterminating communism, but whose extreme methods have provoked controversy in many United States cities.

FOUNDER AND LEADER of the organization is Robert H. W. Welch Jr. (left). Welch caused great indignation when he branded the then President Eisenhower a Communist dupe. One of the society's goals is to impeach Chief Justice Warren.

(Globe Photo by Jack O'Connell)

BIRCH SOCIETY

Continued from the First Page

Thomas More Storke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim a U.S. senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, Mass.

Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered Storke was the way Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

But the statement about Eisenhower wasn't all Storke had on his mind. In Santa Barbara itself, blessed as few communities in the nation with the comforts of both nature and material wealth, lives a member of the society's 26-man council, Dr. Granville Knight, a physician. Several active chapters of the semi-secret society were studying communism at private meetings and looking around town for Communists to expose.

EDITOR DARES SOCIETY TO SUE

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact, Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Exposure of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from communism. He also advises members to set up front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in directed letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

It was to protest what these tactics were doing to Santa Barbara that editor Storke raised his editorial voice.

"The News-Press condemns the tactics that have brought anonymous telephone calls of denunciation to Santa Barbarans in recent weeks from members of the John Birch Society or their sympathizers," Storke's editorial said.

"The News-Press condemns the pressures on wealthy residents who fear and abhor communism, to contribute money to an organization whose leader has said that 'for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds.' . . .

"The John Birch Society already has done a grave disservice to Santa Barbara by arousing suspicions and a mutual distrust among men of good will. The organization's adherents, sincere in their opposition to communism, do not seem to understand the dangers of the totalitarian dynamite with which they are tampering.

"The News-Press challenges them: Come up from underground.

"And if they believe that in being challenged they have grounds for suit—let them sue. The News-Press would welcome a suit as a means of shedding more light on the John Birch Society."

WELCH NOT SURE OF DEMOCRACY

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultra-conservative. It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

It is, in itself, an authoritarian society. (Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian"). Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government.

But he is far from completely sold on the form we now have. And as for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

By Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts. The U.S. Senate on Mar. 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Welch's accusations against Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of." On the other hand a Senate Internal Affairs subcommittee has described Welch's John Birch Society as a "patriotic organization."

And because there is evidence to support the society's claim that it is growing, the controversy around it is also bound to grow in the months ahead.

CONTROVERSY SPREADS FAR

Santa Barbara was not the first or the last—although it would seem among the most unlikely—community to have been torn by the society's activities nor to have seen it assailed by its newspapers. The organization has become embroiled in controversy in many states, including Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, California and North Dakota.

The amount of secrecy surrounding its operations has varied considerably from community to community, and Welch has given up his fight to avoid publicity about the group.

At issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

At issue between the society and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities to suppress, if not the right, at least the respectability of, dissent.

This question has split the Supreme Court itself in decisions which have qualified the First Amendment rights of witnesses before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Inhibition of free speech caused by such private organizations as the Birch Society, have had no judicial rule. Editor Storke's statement of principles, said: "We believe . . . that traitors should be dealt with by the courts, not by vigilante groups."

BIRCH KILLED BY CHINA REDS

John Birch had nothing to do with the group which bears his name. He was a young Fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia, who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II, and was killed 10 days after V.J. Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

Robert Welch never heard of Birch until after his death, but he has researched and written his life story. Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that Third World War, between communists and the ever-shrinking 'free world,' which is still being waged against us." And when he came to found a communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

In Birch's name, members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as P.T.A.'s and chambers of commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-communist.

These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

At her farm home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th century. But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"You have only a few more years," he told his listeners at Indianapolis. "We are living . . . in such a fool's paradise as the people of China lived in 20 years ago."

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Sputnik supremacy is, in Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot. "In other words, under the guise of fighting communism, we are being stamped into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

WOULD REPEAL SOCIAL MEASURES

Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the last 30 years.

He warned that communism is being slipped over on the American people so gradually and insidiously that before long "they can no longer resist the Communist conspiracy as free citizens, but can resist the Communist tyranny only by themselves becoming conspirators against established government."

NEXT—The Society's Doctrine and Membership)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Birch Society Does 'Nicely' in State, Says Member Here

REC-76

By MARSHALL WILSON

How is the John Birch Society doing in Washington State?

"Very nicely," according to P. C. (Cap) Beezley, 2749 60th Av. S. E., Mercer Island.

Beezley, volunteer organizer for the society in Washington, is convinced his organization is the "most efficient in America in the fight against Communism."

"HOW MANY members of the society are there in Washington?" Beezley was asked.

"No comment," Beezley replied. "Do the Communists tell you how many members they have? I think they would like nothing better than to know our strength."

Beezley has been collecting and reading volumes of anti-Communist literature and stacks of congressional reports for 12 years. He joined the John Birch Society when Robert Welch, society founder, conducted a two-day seminar in Seattle in September, 195[illegible]

BEEZLEY SAID he joined the society because it had "professional direction, and that is what is necessary to stop the Communists."

Although Beezley downgrades the importance of the number of members, the society has set a national goal of 1,000,000 members.

"Not everybody belongs in the organization," he said. "Some people are not in the position to take the smears we know we will have to take."

Time for extensive reading is one of the major qualifications for a prospective member of the John Birch Society.

"We want factual, documented information," Beezley said.

"HOW DO YOU pass on the information you find?" he was asked.

"Through meetings of the individual members," Beezley said.

Beezley added that pertinent facts then are called to the attention of the lawmakers," he answered.

The organization hopes for the day when 100,000 or 200,000 letters on any subject can flood the desks of congressmen within 48 hours.

THE SOCIETY follows a pattern of the Communist Party, it hates, in organizing along cell units. Each cell will be broken up into other units

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
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SEATTLE TIMES
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SEATTLE DIVISION

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when membership passes 20.

"Where do you meet?" Beezley was asked.

"Each chapter meets a minimum of once a month," he answered. "Some are meeting more often. We meet in homes or offices—wherever is convenient."

At meetings, members are given their assignments—primarily letter-writing. One requirement is to read at least one book a month on the Communist peril.

BEEZLEY AGAIN and again emphasized that the aim of the society is "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

Beezley was asked about reports that there is no accounting of society funds.

"I can't say specifically, but I'll bet money it isn't true," he said.

Beezley denied that the society is secret and said the whole story is set out in the Blue Book, the organization's Bible, for sale to anyone for $2.

Beezley denied reports that some children are asked to "snitch" on their teachers, but said:

"I don't see anything wrong in asking children to report if their teachers are teaching Communism."

Beezley is a retired Seattle businessman. He was employed by an investment-security company 20 years and was president of an asphalt company when he retired in 1954.

The John Birch Society is opposed to water fluoridation.

"It's mass medication, isn't it?" Beezley asked.

He said the enemy could easily put poison or nerve drugs in a city's water system.

DESPITE HIS hatred for the Communists, Beezley is not fearful of a thermonuclear war, but fears invasion from within.

"The Soviets don't want this tremendous industrial plant a pile of contaminated cinders—and they want the people who know how to run it."

Beezley acknowledged a connection between the John Birch Society and the films, "Communism on the Map" and "Operation Abolition."

"The films were financed by the National Education Program," he said. Dr. George S. Benson, president of Harding College in Searcy, Ark., is also president of that program.

"They did use some of Bob Welch's material—why shouldn't they?" he concluded.

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Birch Group Called 'Fanatic Rightists'

Special to the N. Y. Journal-American

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 29.—California Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk, who is probing The John Birch Society under orders of Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, this week called the organization a "fanatic group of the extreme right."

The Society, a right-wing, strongly anti-Communist group, has come under sweeping attack in many parts of the State during the past few months—particularly in Southern California.

Gov. Brown ordered the probe, he said, "because fascism is just as dangerous as communism."

Mr. Mosk declined to give any indication of what his probe was seeking until he reports to the Governor. "That will be within 10 days," he said.

EXTREMELY ACTIVE

He did say, however, the Society has been extremely active in the areas of Santa Barbara, San Diego, Santa Ana, Orange and Los Angeles counties.

In Santa Barbara, wealthy residents reportedly are providing strong backing for the Society. A storm of controversy has arisen in both church and educational circles in the community.

On the religious front, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church and past-president of the National and World Councils of Churches declared the organization's manifesto is "fascist."

Calling on Presbyterians to wake up to what is happening to you under the guise of anti-communism," he charged the society is conducting a "campaign of false witness" against the church and its leaders.

ASK U.S. PROBE

In addition to the Governor's probe, a June hearing has been set by the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee. Its chairman, Sen. Hugh Burns, of Fresno, said the Society's founder, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., will be asked to testify, adding:

"Any movement, from the unbalanced Right or the unbalanced Left, which tears the country apart by rumor, slander, fear and doubt, must necessarily be suspect."

The Assembly Rules Committee will vote tomorrow on a resolution urging a nation-wide investigation of the Birch Society by U. S. Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy. The committee heard testimony urging the resolution be passed yesterday.

Mr. Mosk classified the Birch Society as an organization which "is extremist and should be suspect by loyal Americans."

He included, along with the Society, the American Nazi Party, the Communist Party, the Ku Klux Klan, the Cinema Education Guild, the Muslims and other groups.

Mr. Mosk gave a six-point check list to help persons determine if organizations fall into this "suspect" category:

1. Does it attack churches and schools with blanket accusations?

2. Does it attack other traditional American institutions with wild, unsupported charges?

3. Does it label everyone Un-American or subversive with whom it disagrees politically?

4. Does it try to rewrite modern history by blaming American statesmen for wars, communism, depressions and all other ills of the world?

6. Do the spokesmen for the pressure tactics by such means as anonymous phone calls and letter-writing campaigns?

6. Do the spokesman for the group appear more interested in the size of their money collections than in the principals they purport to espouse?

"Apply these six tests," said Mr. Mosk, "and you will avoid entangling yourself in memberships and contributions to such groups."

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
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ULTRACONSERVATIVE GROUP ASSAILED

Birch Society Called Ike, Dulles Reds

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
By United Press International

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"The editor and publisher of the News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.

"His entire life has been spent in this community...he lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men.

"He lived during periods when if a man or a group of men openly by word of mouth, or the printed word, called our President...and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers...."

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In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 and still in limited circulation, Mr. Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

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"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Mr. Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact Mr. Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Holds Democracy Political Fraud

The society is, in itself, an authoritarian society. Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian"). Mr. Welch is far from completely sold on the form of government we now have.

As for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it frankly as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

THOMAS M. STORKE — *Opposes Birch Society*
SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG — *Speaks Up in Senate*

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The U.S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, declare that Mr. Welch's accusations against Mr. Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of."

A little over three weeks after Mr. Storke's editorial, Chancellor Samuel B. Gould of the University of California at Santa Barbara, speaking at a university banquet, said a "new type" of secret student organization had been set up on the campus whihc encourages students to become informers and "take on the tasks of security agencies." It is understood he referred to the Birch Society.

An issue between the society and many who might otherwise share Mr. Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

John Birch had nothing to do with the group. He was a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

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These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

Mr. Welch was born in North Carolina, Dec. 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism."

He spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James A. Welch Co., headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

Founded Group In December '58

He was a director of the National Assn. of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization, and three former presidents of the NAM are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On Jan. 1, 1957, his biography says, he "gave up most of his business responsibilities—and most of his income—in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

The John Birch Society was founded almost two years later on Dec. 9, 1958, at Indianapolis. A two-day speech, which Mr. Welch delivered, is today the "Blue Book" of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods.

It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine, "American Opinion," which Mr. Welch founded before the society and of which he is editor.

The message and aim is: "Less government, more responsibility and a better world."

All Opponents In "Conspiracy"

Mr. Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th century.

But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or ostalgically, he views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy.

It would, he claims, change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Mr. Welch said "from Communist influence right in our midst and treason right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and Sputnik supremacy is, in Mr. Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot.

"In other words, under the guise of fighting Communism we are being stamped into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into,into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

The conservative Los Angeles Times, in an editorial signed by publisher Otis Chandler on March 12, saw an implication of sedition in Mr. Welch's statements.

The editorial said:

"The Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won—and we do believ it can be won—by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometimes disagree."

Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
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John Birch Society:

Alarmist Order

A semi-secret society which has begun to appear in the news throughout the nation largely because of its extremism in its fight against communism and its shocking characterization of many national leaders as Communists is the John Birch Society. This is the first of a series of articles on the goals, the organization, leadership and plan of action of this organization.

BY BARRY FARRELL
Post-Intelligencer Staff Reporter

TWO years ago, a retired candy manufacturer called a meeting of a dozen men. The men came to Indianapolis in mid-winter, drawn there by the heat of the cold war. After a two-day monologue delivered by Robert Welch, the candy maker and the founder of the John Birch Society, 12 men were forged together in a common aim: The defeat, at all costs, of international communism.

Since then the John Birch Society has spread to every state in the union. There are chapters in 35 states and scores of "home chapter" members in the others. By year's end, the society expects 100,000 members. Its goal is one million. Its size increases at a rate that doubles the total membership every four months.

Chapters Here

Seattle has several chapters and there are chapters in Kent and in Renton, in Edmonds, Bellingham, Tacoma, Burlington, Sunnydale, Bellevue and other cities in the state. New chapters form almost monthly, dividing themselves like amoebae from one chapter into two whenever the membership of a chapter grows beyond 20.

The John Birch Society is on the move.

The society's members are locked together by "completely authoritative controls at all levels" in hopes of presenting a strong and militant front to advance the two aims of the society: Fight communism and work for less government, more individual responsibility and a better world.

The membership, according to P. C. Beezley of Mercer Island, volunteer coordinator of John Birch activities in Washington State, runs the gamut of society—the young and old, Republican and Democrat, rich man and poor. The one thing the members have in common, Beezley has said, is fear:

"We're looking for members sufficiently aware of things to be frightened and sufficiently frightened to want to work. As soon as people talk together and get afraid, they'll start working with us."

The theme of fear runs through all the books, magazines and statements the society issues. In "The Blue Book of the John Birch Society," a primer of ultra-conservatism drawn from tape recordings made at Welch's Indianapolis convention, many pages are devoted to the importance of "shock technique" in awakening Americans to the menace of communism.

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Editor - BERNE JACOBSEN

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Grave Accusations

And, as Welch interprets it, the menace of communism is truly fearful. The past three American presidents, he has written, were either Communists or tools of the Communists.

To Welch, President Eisenhower was a "**dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy.**" He also wrote of Eisenhower that "**. . . there is only one word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason.**"

He describes President Kennedy as "**the amoral man . . . . smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get . . . . .**" and a man who "**can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States.**"

Welch has called both the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, tools of the Communists. Another "**Communist dupe,**" Welch charges, is Chief Justice Earl Warren and Welch has made it a cardinal ambition of his society to see the day when Warren is impeached.

"The Blue Book," and Welch's own credo, a confidential book distributed to a limited number of followers called "The Politician," draw the battle lines against communism right through the heart of American society. Communists control the press, the United Nations, high posts in the government and the armed forces, leading positions in the schools and universities, at least one of every three Protestant churches and most civic organizations, Welch argues.

"The Politician" has brought considerable discomfort to many John Birch members and to Welch himself, who argues that it has nothing to do with the society. But the tenor of its charges is found everywhere in the literature of the society and in "American Opinion," its monthly magazine.

The John Birch Society has been attacked by many national leaders for its authoritarian organization, its reckless charges against the most august and influential Americans and its plan of operations for the future. Last week former Vice President Richard Nixon warned Americans against adopting the tactics of communism to fight subversion in this country.

Warning From Nixon

"**It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality,**" Nixon wrote. "**But in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right, but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism.**"

But to Welch, such charges are simply part of the expected "smear," the result of what he considers the decay of Americanism in both the leaders who denounce his society and the press which broadcasts the attacks.

"**When we get smeared,**" Beezley said the other day, "**it means we're beginning to be noticed. We're beginning to hurt them (the Communists) and the smear has always been their counterattack. It's perfectly all right with us it's a sign of our strength.**"

(Tomorrow: The John Birch Society—A Portrait of its Leaders.)

Mr. Tolson
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JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Groups Scorn Democracy, U.S. Leaders

The John Birch Society, a strange product of strange times, was born a little more than two years ago.

A semi-secret society, it grew out of infancy known only to a few. It burst into public prominence only in the past month or so.

Now, as if by magic, the John Birch Society is discussed and debated in churches, in schools, in the press, in Congress.

The society says it now has thousands of members across the nation, organized chapters in 34 states including Texas, and a growing reservoir of money and power.

HOUSTON IS described by the society as one of its strongest bulwarks. Its members here are said to number in the hundreds.

The society also has a leader who once branded President Eisenhower as a traitor and a Communist.

"Shocking and irresponsible," the society was called by Congressman J. T. Rutherford of Odessa in a newsletter to his constitutents.

Sen James O. Eastland, D-Miss, chairman of the Senate internal security subcommittee, describes it in a form letter used to answer queries as:

"**A CONSERVATIVE** anti-Communist organization . . . It seems to me, from our records, a patriotic organization."

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, on the other hand, warned that the society operates on the "dangerous fallacy" that the end justifies the means.

Nixon condemned the society in a letter to the Los Angeles Times, a newspaper which had itself condemned the society in a front-page editorial.

'Subversion . . . Is Still Subversion'

"Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion," the Times said.

WHAT IS THIS society that provoked all the uproar? Who runs it? How powerful is it? How does it operate? What are its goals?

Because of the society's semi-secret nature, not all of these questions have been fully answered.

The best answers available come from the society's own publications — mainly its bible, the so-called Blue Book.

The 182-page Blue Book, printed by offset press with a loose-leaf binding, was written by Robert Welch, 61, the society's founder.

In a foreword to the book, Welch tells this story of how the society was born:

IT BEGAN AT a two-day meeting in Indianapolis on Dec. 8-9, 1958.

Eleven friends of Welch's, all described as influential businessmen but never named, assembled at Welch's request without knowing why.

There was one man apiece from Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee and Virginia. There were two men apiece from Wisconsin and Massachusetts.

Welch himself is a former executive of a Massachusetts candy company.

For two days and nights, stopping only for meals and coffee breaks, the 11 men listened to Welch unfold his plan. Welch never says how many of the 11 were converted to his cause.

File
62-104401
5-9

THE HOUSTON POST
3-29-61
Houston, Texas
RE: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(HOfile: 62-1521)
HOUSTON DIVISION

62-104401-A

NOT RECORDED
191 APR 19 1961

66 APR 19 1961

Socialism, Communism Are Same

BUT HE DOES say that the Blue Book is "simply a transcript, practically verbatim, of that presentation."

The Blue Book first traces the history of Communism and its successes around the world. And to Welch, socialism and Communism are the same.

He says Norway is under the Communist thumb "for all practical purposes," while Iceland and Finland are completely so. Even Hawaii, he says, is Communist-controlled.

He broadly implies that Nehru of India, Nasser of Egypt and Sukarno of Indonesia are Communists.

TURNING TO the United States, Welch is just as jolting. Without benefit of documentation, he sees Communists everywhere.

He sees a gigantic conspiracy of Communists in high places, slyly softening the American people for eventual bloodless conquest.

"This door of betrayal is known to be wide open," he says in the Blue Book, "and nobody—in Congress, in the executive branch, in the Pentagon itself — nobody even dares try to close it."

He says a Communist-controlled communications union can tap "75 vital links in the most secret communications of our government itself."

"THE BEST informed authorities (not named) say that there are at least 30 huge Communist espionage rings operating in this country today," Welch writes, "against the only two or three that have been only partly exposed."

He says the nation's press, radio and television for the most part are controlled by Communists.

A Plot To Suppress Literature

These news media, he says, take part in a conspiracy to suppress books written by the few patriots who try to expose the menace.

WELCH SAID one such suppressed book was "The Struggle for the A-Bomb" by Dr Medford Evans, a onetime chief of security training for the Atomic Energy Commission.

The book convinced Welch, at least, that up until that time (1952) Soviet Russia had never built an A-Bomb of its own.

"Their agents had simply walked off from our plants with the necessary separate parts," Welch said, "which had then been assembled in Russia and exploded whenever it best suited the Soviets' pretenses."

YET, WELCH continued, this story of treason that "should have rocked the nation" sold only 2,600 copies. Why?

Welch says press reviewers ignore such books, their publishers are intimidated, and the few copies which get printed are slowly stolen from library shelves by Communist agents.

Getting more specific, the Blue Book on Page 99 accuses the late President Roosevelt and the late Gen George C. Marshall of "plain unadulterated treason" for their roles in Pearl Harbor.

Moving toward the present, Welch sits his sights on "the amoral man who has no slightest inner concern with right or wrong."

WELCH NAMES no name, but he apparently is talking of the then Sen John F. Kennedy.

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday morning," Welch writes, "maybe even a Catholic church.

"But as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States."

IN HIS Blue Book, Welch also has a few words to say about then Vice President Nixon, who was a presidential possibility at that time.

An Appraisal of Richard Nixon

"One of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous and slipperiest politicians that ever showed up on the American scene," Welch said.

Welch accused Nixon of trumpeting his "highly cautious part" in the Alger Hiss case, while at the same time courting the left "by quietly knifing McCarthy."

IN 1952, Welch wrote, Nixon aided in or perhaps engineered "the dirtiest deal in American political history."

Welch said Nixon deserted the late Sen Robert A. Taft "to make himself vice president (and to put Warren on the Supreme Court as part of that deal)."

"I don't think Nixon," Welch said, "is committed to anything other than the career of Richard Nixon."

WELCH WAS even blunter in another book he wrote sometime earlier, apparently about 1956.

That book, "The Politician," was distributed privately by Welch to a few close friends. Copies of it have since been recalled. It was never registered in the Library of Congress.

In that book, Welch labeled former President Eisenhower and high members of his administration as Communists or traitors.

In "The Politician," Welch said of Mr Eisenhower:

"THERE IS only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

At another point in the book:

"In my opinion the chances are very strong that Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party. For one thing, he is obviously a great deal smarter."

Others described in the book as "Communist agents" include the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

THESE CHARGES are not mentioned in the Blue Book and are not official doctrine of the John Birch Society.

Many society members, in fact, believe "The Politician" is a myth, planted by their enemies to discredit them.

A Member in Houston Agrees

But here in Houston, on a television debate only last Saturday, one society member agreed with Welch's charge.

Robert V. Gray, a salesman and unsuccessful candidate for Republican county chairman in 1960, said Mr Eisenhower is "a Red to me."

WHAT IS Welch's answer to this Communist conspiracy?

It is the John Birch Society, named after a Baptist missionary who became an Army intelligence officer and was killed by the Chinese Communists late in World War II.

Welch uses the last half of the Blue Book to detail the society's philosophy and program.

And to a lot of readers, the last part of the book is no less frightening than the first.

WELCH'S PLAN — now in action — is to fight the Communists with some of their own weapons: An unquestioned central leader, chapters working unknown to each other, infiltration of existing organizations, the use of fronts, the personal attack.

Welch gets down to the bedrock of his philosophy on Page 155 of the Blue Book.

"Democracy," he writes, "is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

In the same vein, he says republican government has its attractions and advantages under certain favorable circumstances.

"BUT UNDER less happy circumstances," he goes on, "it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption."

Welch makes plain that his organization will not tumble into these pitfalls.

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic 'body,'" he writes. . . . The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels."

Welch elaborates on his theme in the ensuing pages. Some excerpts:

"WE CANNOT stop for parliamentary procedures or a lot of arguments among ourselves."

'Business Every Step of the Way'

"We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides - to - every - question theme . . ."

"We can allow for differences of opinion . . . But whenever differences of opinion become translated into a lack of loyal support, we shall have short cuts for eliminating both without going through any congress of so-called democratic processes . . ."

ONLY BY SUCH tactics, Welch contends, can the society combat Communism effectively. And he adds repeatedly:

"We mean business every step of the way."

At another point, the Blue Book proposes that suspected Communists be exposed by articles in conservative magazines. The articles would consist entirely of questions.

"The question technique, when skillfully used in this way, is mean and dirty," Welch admits.

"BUT THE Communists we are after are meaner and dirtier, and too slippery for you to put your fingers on them in the ordinary way."

Welch points out that this technique was used effectively by the late Sen Joseph McCarthy.

This, however, is only one facet of a 10-point plan of action which Welch lays out for his society.

1) The setting up of reading rooms, similar to a religious sect's reading rooms, in towns and villages everwhere, with rental libraries of approved conservative books not otherwise obtainable.

2) **A WIDER** distribution of such conservative periodicals as Welch's own American Opinion, a monthly review of current events.

Welch urges that American Opinion and Human Events be put in barber shops, the Dan Smoot Report in doctors and dentists' offices, the National Review in every college library and fraternity house.

Letters, Committees, Exposes

3) The support of such conservative radio commentators as Fulton Lewis and Clarence Manion through letters of approval to sponsors, stations and networks.

ALSO, THE development and support of local commentators with similar views.

4) The organized and controlled use of "the powerful letter-writing weapon" on legislators, government executives, newspapers, politicians and anybody else in sight.

As an example, Welch says, United Air Lines dropped a plan to put the United Nations insignia with the words "We Believe" on all its planes. He credited a flood of letters to the airline directors.

5) The organization of fronts — "little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts."

SOME SUGGESTED by Welch: Committee for Withdrawal of Recognition (of Soviet Russia), Committee to Protest the Firing of Medford Evans, A Petition to Impeach Earl Warren, and a Committee to Investigate Communist Influences at Vassar College ("headed by Vassar graduates, of course").

6) The shocking of the American peope by the exposure of highly-placed educators, government officials and others suspected by the society of being Communists.

Welch says that even after spending $100,000 on detectives to investigate a suspect, "I doubt if we could prove it on him."

BUT HE ADDS that a fr

thousands spent for careful research would provide "all the material needed for quite a stock."

7) The heckling and harassing of "s l i m y characters" who falsely pose as anti-Communists while making speeches and broadcasts or writing books.

8) The creation of a list of approved speakers to appear before church clubs, P-TA groups and other organizations of all sizes for small fees or no fees.

9) Action on the international front, including help for anti-Communist refugees in setting up governments in exile.

10 "**FINALLY,** and probably most important of all these courses of action, we would put our weight into the political scales in this country just as fast and far as we could."

Leader Can't Be a Politician

Having laid out his goals at the Indianapolis meeting, Welch next turned to the question of a leader for the John Birch Society.

He brought up the name of Sen Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz, praising him as a superb political organizer, "absolutely sound in his Americanism."

BUT WHILE Welch favored Goldwater over any other established leader in sight, he reasoned that Goldwater had one fatal flaw. He was a politician.

Welch decided that Goldwater could not supply the dynamic overall leadership needed because he "will inevitably think and move in terms of political warfare."

Driven by "the imminence and horror of this (Communist) danger," Welch then took the "desperate course" of offering himself as the society's leader.

"**IT IS NOT** because I want so frightening a responsibility . . ." Welch said. "It is simply that, under the pressure of time and the exigencies of our need, you have no other choice, and neither do I."

One of Welch's critics, Sen Milton R. Young, R-ND, questioned the mental balance of the self-chosen leader of the society in a speech on the Senate floor on March 8. Referring to the accusation that Mr Eisenhower was a Communist, Sen Young said:

"It is unbelievable that any sane person would make such accusations."

What sort of person is Welch? What is his background?

IN A BRIEF biography in the Blue Book, Welch says he was born on a farm in Chowan County in North Carolina.

His Welsh ancestry was heavy with farmers and Baptist preachers.

He spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the U. S. Naval Academy and two at the Harvard Law School.

Welch moved from North Carolina to Boston in 1919. He has spent most of his adult life with the James O. Welch Company, run by his brother.

UNTIL HIS retirement in 1957 to become a professional anti-Communist, Welch was vice president in charge of sales and advertising for the candy company.

Air of Conviction, Sheer Stamina

Welch was on the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years. For three years, he was a regional vice president of the NAM, and he also was once chairman of its educational advisory committee.

Welch, who fancies himself as a public speaker, has taken his message to many business and civic groups in recent years.

A TWO-HOUR filmed speech by Welch is used to recruit new members to the society. Welch spends the two hours covering the main points in the Blue Book, often in the same words.

He is a balding man with faintly pouched eyes.

His chief assets as a speaker are an air of conviction and sheer stamina. In the film, he is not a shouter or a podium pounder. He appears to possess little of that peculiar personal magnetism the late Sen McCarthy had.

Between trips to Europe, Asia and South America, Welch has lived for 22 years in Belmont, Mass.

USING BELMONT as his headquarters, Welch has organized the John Birch Society along the lines first laid out in the Blue Book.

The society is built around small local chapters, usually of 10 to 20 members, but sometimes larger. When a chapter grows too large, it splits into a new chapter.

Each chapter has a leader appointed by Welch. The chapter leader's main job is to collect the members' dues and forward them to Belmont.

In line with Welch's concept of authority from the top, society members get their orders in a monthly bulletin sent out from Belmont. The chain of command skips over chapter leaders.

THE CHAPTERS normally meet once a month, in the home of the chapter leader or a mem-

ber.

In areas with a number of chapters, Welch names co-ordinators to supervise the existing chapters and recruit new ones. Some co-ordinators draw a salary. Some are volunteers.

Over the co-ordinators, Welch has now named major co-ordinators in several areas. He says more will be added as the society grows.

In areas where there are no local chapters, new members are enrolled in a so-called home chapter at Belmont.

FROM THE first, Welch's goal has been a million members.

How well has he done? That is a society secret. As Welch says in a pamphlet given to prospective members:

"Neither the list of our members, of either local chapters or the home chapter, nor their number, is ever given out to anybody."

In the same pamphlet, however, Welch says the society as of last Jan 31 had one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia.

HE LISTED these states then still unorganized by the society: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont.

The Los Angeles Times, in a recent series on the society, said the society expects to have 100,000 members by the end of this year.

One Southern California leader of the society told the Times there are several thousand members in that area.

WELCH HIMSELF says Greater Los Angeles and Greater Houston are two of the society's strongholds.

One Houston official of the society says there are hundreds of members in the Houston area.

The society is frankly out for all the money it can muster to pursue its campaigns.

The basic annual dues are $24 for men, $12 for women. But all members are invited to pay larger dues, if they can, "to support the society's work." The dues are payable monthly.

A LIFE membership costs $1,000, payable in two consecutive annual installments of $500 each.

At the meeting in Indianapolis Welch, also invited his 11 businessmen friends to contribute to the society as heavily as they could.

Other revenue comes from the sale of Blue Books (price, $2), Welch's monthly American Opinion, and other pamphlets.

During the national election last fall, one of the society's monthly pamphlets told readers how to order campaign buttons reading: "Goldwater Says Don't Dodge — Vote for Nixon and Lodge."

THE QUOTED price was $1 apiece for up to 20 buttons, 50 cents apiece for more than that.

How the money is spent is another of Welch's secrets. He does not have to account to members for it.

In a Feb 26 editorial criticizing the society, the Santa Barbara (Calif) News-Press observed:

"One million members, divided equally between men and women, would bring him $18 Million a year. Quite a sum to play with without accountability."

ALTHOUGH HE is the society's absolute leader, Welch has set up a council to guide and advise him. The council members include:

Cola G. Parker and William J. Grede, Wisconsin industrialists, and both former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School; Spruille Braden, a former U. S. diplomat; T. Coleman Andrews, former commissioner of internal revenue, and Col Laurence E. Banker, former personal aide to Gen Douglas MacArthur.

The council also has another assignment: To appoint Welch's successor as head of the society.

"IF AND WHEN an accident, suicide, or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists," Welch explains, "or I simply die in bed of old age and a cantankerous disposition."

Critics of Welch have focused their fire on his apparent contempt for democracy, his disbelief in democratic processes as a match for Communism.

Welch replies that his society could never become the seed of a dictatorship because membership is strictly voluntary.

IN REPLY TO growing criticism in California, Welch last week asked for an investigation of his society by that state's Senate Un-American Activities Committee.

Welch pledged that no society member would take the Fifth Amendment.

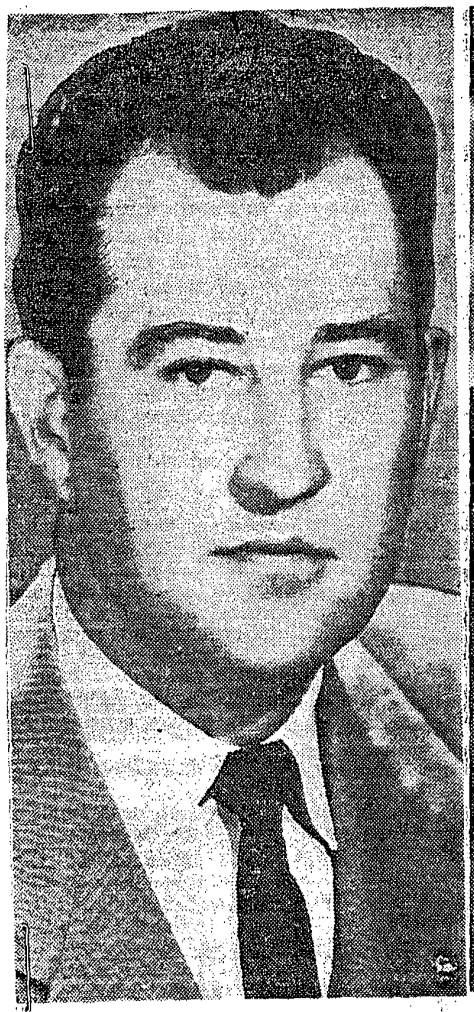
The California investigation is tentatively set for next summer.

In Washington, there has been talk of similar hearings by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate internal security subcommittee.

WELCH HIMSELF was asked recently by a Boston Herald reporter if he still believed his earlier charge that Mr Eisenhower was a Communist.

"Now I don't know what I think," Welch was quoted as replying. "Eisenhower may be too dumb to be a Communist."

Some critics have accused Welch of using the very tool employed by the Coommunists in taking over a country — hate, fear, distrust and contempt for the duly constituted government.



REP J. T. RUTHERFORD
Called Society 'Shocking'

ROBERT WELCH
'You Have No Other Choice'

RICHARD M. NIXON
Deplored 'Dangerous Fallacy'

SEN MILTON R. Y
Questioned Welch's Sanity

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Mc Guire
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

U. S. EXTREMISM: Birch Society Invokes Name of Slain Baptist Missionary

By United Press International

John Birch had nothing to do with the controversial right-wing group that bears his name.

Birch was a young, fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China in the Second World War. He was killed ten days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

Robert Welch, the Boston industrialist who is the power behind the Birch Society, never heard of Birch until after his death. Welch has researched and whitten his life story.

Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that third world war between Communists and the ever shrinking 'free world' which is still being waged against us." And when he came to found a Communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

In Birch's name, members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as P. T. A.'s and Chambers of Commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-Communist.

These campaigns include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other exchanges with Russia.

AT HER FARM home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

Welch also is a native Southerner, born in North Carolina, December 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism."

Welch spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James O. Welch Co., headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

62-104401

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
SEfile 100-24754
BUfile 62-104401

SEATTLE TIMES

MAR 29 1961

PAGE 4 COL 1

Editor - HENRY MAC LEOD

SEATTLE DIVISION

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
MAR 31 1961
FBI - SEATTLE

62-104401-A

NOT RECORDED
191 APR 19 1961

IN HIS OWN words—a biographical sketch Welch wrote in the third person for society members—he has one wife, two sons, a Golden Retriever dog, and fourteen golf clubs—none of which he understands, but all of which he loves.

Welch is an affable man who exhibits in his writings a sense of humor, love of poetry and wide knowledge of history and literature.

Welch was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization. Three former presidents of the N. A. M. are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On January 1, 1957, Welch's biography says, he "gave up most of his business responsibilties—and most of his income—in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

THE JOHN BIRCH Society was founded almost two years later, on December 9, 1958, at Indianapolis, after Welch delivered a two-day speech to 11 men he had invited to hear it.

That speech is today the "Blue Book" of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods. It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine American Opinion, which Birch founded before the society, and of which he is editor.

The message and aim is: "Less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th Century. He views its trend toward "collectivism" not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

"YOU HAVE ONLY a few more years," Welch told his listeners at Indianapolis. "We are living . . . in such a fool's paradise as the people of China lived in 20 years ago."

"The danger is almost entirely internal," Welch said, "from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government."

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet might is, in Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot.

"In other words, under the guise of fighting Communism we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever toward, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp."

Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the past 30 years.

"THE GREATEST enemy of man is, and always has been, government," Welch said.

"We are not beginning any revolution, nor even a counter-revolution in any technical sense . . ." Welch said. "Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff of which revolutions are made."

Welch warned that Communism is being slipped over on the American people so gradually and insidiously that before long "they can no longer resist the Communist conspiracy as free citizens, but can resist the Communist tyranny only by themselves becoming conspirators against established government."

The Los Angeles Times, in an editorial signed by Otis Chandler, publisher, on March 12, saw an implication of sedition in Welch's statements. And like many others, deplored the identification of conservatism with extremism.

"THE TIMES believes implicitly in the conservative philosophy," the editorial said. "It has challenged all these men and most of these institutions (which Welch attacks) on the soundness of one or more issues. But the Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won—and we do believe it can be won—by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometimes disagree.

"Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion."

Criticism from the press is not likely to disturb Welch. He has already told his followers that "the domination of our press, television and radio by Communist influences is now so great that you simply are not allowed to learn or be reminded of the real nature of the beasts to whom we are losing."

AN EDITORIAL in American Opinion for February said the long insolvent Communist newspaper The Daily Worker quit publication because "the 'line' taken by The (New York) Times long ago made it unnecessary, superfluous and probably embarrassing to The Times."

"When you hear Welch's charges out of context, their absurdity is plain enough," the Rev. John A. Crane told his congregation at Santa Barbara's Unitarian Church one February Sunday.

"But when you come upon them in the publications of the society, surrounded and supported by Welch's rich, flowing language and ideas, their absurdity is well concealed.

"The man is a marvelously gifted demogogue. . . .

"There is another factor apart from the magic of Robert Welch that lends power to the movement . . . Both Welch and his people are genuinely afraid . . . driven by an almost wild fear of a persistent and pervasive sort. Because of the peculiar nature of their understanding of what it means to be an American, everywhere they look, in our society, they see signs of an incredibly devious subversion. . . ."

(Next: the society's doctrine and membership)

0-20 (Rev. 2-13-61)

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

INT. SEC.

UPI-201
(BIRCH)

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.--A COMMITTEE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE TODAY BEGAN HEARINGS ON THE CONSERVATIVE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, WHICH ONE LAWMAKER SAID "REMINDS US VERY MUCH" OF THE HITLER ORGANIZATION IN GERMANY BEFORE WORLD WAR II.

"THIS IS AN ORGANIZATION TO FIGHT COMMUNISTS," SAID ASSEMBLYMAN GORDON I. WINTON, "THE HITLER ORGANIZATION STARTED OUT THE SAME WAY AND ATTRACTED SOME VERY RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMEN." THE LEGISLATOR SPOKE AT A HEARING BY THE ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE WHICH IS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO REQUEST A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BIRCH GROUP.

THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE MAKING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SOCIETY, SOME OF WHOSE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS WERE LOCATED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

3/28--GE1050P

File
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62-104401-A
NOT RECORDED
191 APR 3 1961

56 APR 3 1961

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

0-19 (Rev. 2-13-61)

Rightists Threaten "Silence of Fear"

A-10

By Marquis Childs

HOW DANGEROUS to the well-being of this Nation and to America's position as leader of the free world are the radicals of the right?

This is a question being asked here seriously today as these radicals increasingly resort to the tactics of the Communists and the cryto-Communists of the thirties. They practice character assassination without regard for the truth. They spread fear, hatred and suspicion. They advocate infiltration of nonpolitical organizations such as the Parent-Teachers Association and the taking over of those organizations.

In some respects these radicals on the extreme right more nearly resemble the fanatical subverters of Germany and Italy who brought nazism and fascism into being. They are often allied with the White Citizens Councils, identifying integration with communism. And at the extreme end of the spectrum they are openly anti-Semitic, often referring in propaganda leaflets to the "Jewish Communist conspiracy."

A few years ago this would have been dismissed as merely another manifestation of what Theodore Roosevelt so aptly called the lunatic fringe—this time on the right rather than the left. But with the rise of the John Birch Society and its intrusion into politics that is not so easy to do. Founded by Robert Welch, a former Massachusetts candy manufacturer, the Birch society now claims nearly a hundred thousand members with chapters in most states.

WELCH'S secretly circulated book, *The Politician*—now reportedly withdrawn because it alarmed some members—has been compared to *Mein Kampf* if only in the Hitlerian view that the greater the lie the more likely that simple minds will fall victim to it. He calls every President beginning with Franklin Roosevelt a Communist. Of the Eisenhower brothers he writes:

"While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct.

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Both the late John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, are called Communists, with the latter ranking next to former President Eisenhower in his power of concealment. A signed editorial following a series of articles revealing the activities of the John Birch Society in one of the most conservative newspapers in the country concluded:

"Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion."

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Gandy

INDEXED
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MAR 28 1961

ONE of the recent political targets of the organization was Sen. Milton Young, Republican of North Dakota. Members of the four Birch societies in Bismarck, the state capital, were pushing in the legislature a proposal for a constitutional convention to act on an amendment abolishing the Federal income tax, liquidating 700 Government agencies and greatly restricting the Government's treaty-making power.

The House had already approved the proposal when Senator Young sent a telegram urging the Senate to defeat it and pointing out that it would mean killing the Garrison dam irrigation diversion project in North Dakota. Thereupon the Birchists came down on Young with their letter-writing and telephone technique seeking to put the Communist label on one whose record has on the whole been conservative.

Sen. Thomas Kuchel of California, a moderate Republican, has also been under fire. One of the main goals of the Birch letter-writing blitz is to bring about the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren who was Kuchel's sponsor in politics. Asked about this at a press conference, he called it a "contemptible and vicious thing" to suggest the impeachment of "one of the great men of our time."

Birch Society members have used their pressure techniques to force the showing of the House Un-American Activities film, *Operation Abolition*. And they have denounced as Communists anyone questioning its accuracy or daring to suggest that the committee may have exceeded its rights.

For popular officeholders such as Kuchel and Young this is perhaps no more than a nuisance, even though they are both up for reelection next year. But for citizens—professors, clergymen and others—with a conviction of their right to speak critical and unpopular views, it can mean community distrust, a small business harmed or even a job lost. The silence of fear is the alternate penalty the radicals of the right try to impose.

Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

'VICIOUS, CRUDE'

John Birchers' Mail Swamps Rutherford

POST WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Rep J. T. Rutherford of Odessa has been under heavy return fire from Houstonians and other Texans who are members of the controversial John Birch Society.

Rutherford a week ago labeled the society "potentially subversive" in a newsletter to his constituents, and urged them to be wary of the organization, which says its aim is to fight Communism.

MORE THAN A hundred letters from Houston, some from both husbands and wives, have poured into the congressman's office in protest.

"They have expressed doubt on my belief in God, in my country, questioned every organization to which I belong, wondered in print about my birth and every act of every day since," Rutherfor said Monday.

"I have gotten some of the most vicious, crude and objectionable mail I have received in years of public life," Rutherford added.

"Their letters are alleging that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, of which I was state commander, is questionable. Yet the VFW, in 1924, became the first organization to pass a resolution against Communism and has renewed it every year since. The letters urge investigations of the Knights of Columbus, the Masonic Lodge, B'nai B'rith and the NAACP. They even question the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"FOR THE information of those Houstonians who are writing these letters, I am a World War II Marine Corps veteran wounded in action, and a Marine Corps captain in a reserve group that is cleared by the FBI and the Pentagon to meet each Thursday to be briefed on top-secret material," Rutherford said.

"I am also a Baptist," he added.

"If I ever had any doubt about this organization, the results of my first statement, and the viciousness of the mail have confirmed my opposition," the congressman added.

[redacted] b6 b7C

THE HOUSTON POST
3-28-61
Houston, Texas
RE: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(HOfile: 62-1521)
HOUSTON DIVISION

File 62-104401

62-104401-A

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The Abhorrent Doctrine Of the Birch Society

THIS EARLY in the John Birch Society's search for recruits in Arkansas, there is evidence that this semi-secret society has two general classes of members: Those who know what they are getting into and those who don't. The uninformed members had better take a second look.

The organization's spread into Arkansas was reported Sunday by the Gazette's Roy Reed in an exhaustive study of the organization, its purposes—and its methods. Mr. Reed's report included an interview with a Birch chapter leader in Little Rock who avowed that if there was anything controversial about the organization he was ready to get out of it. This statement was proof enough he had no real understanding of the Society's nature.

"Controversial," indeed, is the most charitable word for describing the Birch movement. It is authoritarian in philosophy and dedicated to the proposition that Communist methods are to be used in the fight against Communism. The Founder and head, Robert H. Welch has laid out the pattern only too clearly in the Society's Blue Book: He calls democracy a "perennial fraud." He advocates the formation of Front organizations to achieve specific aims. He baldly calls for use of "mean and dirty" tactics in programs of "exposure."

In private papers circulated earlier, Mr. Welch challenged the loyalty of the last three presidents—Eisenhower, Truman and Franklin Roosevelt. He described Milton Eisenhower as Dwight Eisenhower's "superior and boss within the Communist Party."

* * *

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Mesch
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
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Mr. W.C.Sullivan
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INT. SEC.

COMMUNIST MATTERS

LRFILE: 100-8396

File 62-104401

ARKANSAS GAZETTE XX
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
DATE 3-27-61
PAGE 4A

Editor: J. N. HEISKELL

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SUCH IS the nature of Birchism and its founder, a man whose extremes surpass those of the late Senator Joe McCarthy. It is not merely charitable, it is realistic, to conclude that there are people in this Society who were drawn in casually, almost inadvertently, as it used to be in the case of the innocents in the Communist front organizations.

In Franklin, Tennessee, an entire chapter of the Society resigned when the scales of their naivete fell from their eyes. Inevitably there will be resignations in Arkansas as individual members realize the anti-democratic identity of the Society. For members who examine Birchism closely, and still belong, it may not matter greatly whether they resign or not.

★ ★ ★

BIRCHISM'S degree of success, and now its notoriety, rests upon two main supports: (1.) the idea of fighting Communism, and (2.) some 19th Century economic doctrine. The whole nation loathes Communism; the economic philosophy, while remote from reality, still has appeal in some substantial quarters. In any case the Society has recruited enough members to stir warnings from respected conservatives and from some well-known Communist fighters, whose credentials are far more impressive than those of the Massachusetts candy-maker, Robert Welch.

We commend to the 100 or so Birch members in Arkansas, and to any prospective members who may be dallying with the idea of joining, the words of no less a Communist-fighter than Richard Nixon. Mr. Nixon wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Times recommending as "required reading" a front page editorial condemning the Birch Society. The former vice president's clincher:

> "What we must never forget is that one of the most cherished American ideals is that we must fight with proper methods for those things in which we believe."

The editorial itself was written by Otis Chandler, Times publisher, and put the case in somewhat more explicit terms. Mr. Chandler declared that "the Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometime disagree."

These are timely and sound admonitions from some celebrated conservative quarters. In the full disclosure about Birchism which are now emerging, it seems a tenable conclusion that genuine conservatives, interested in conserving American principles, would not be caught dead in the John Birch Society.

0-20 (Rev. 2-13-61)

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File 62-104401

UPI-181

(BIRCH)

LOS ANGELES--THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION SAID TODAY IT OPPOSES ANY INVESTIGATION OF THE RIGHT-WING JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY BY CONGRESS OR THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

"THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO HOLD AND TO ADVOCATE THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS, REGARDLESS OF HOW EXTREME AND DISTORTED THESE VIEWS MAY BE, IS INVIOLATE," SAID EASON MONROE IN A LETTER TO CALIFORNIA GOV. EDMUND G. BROWN.

MONROE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, SAID ANY INVESTIGATION OF THE BIRCH SOCIETY WOULD VIOLATE THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

We're Growing Fast in State, John Birch Member Claims

By ERNEST DUMAS
Of the Gazette Staff

An East Arkansas planter who calls himself one of the original founders as well as a friend of the top man of The John Birch Society said yesterday the ultra-conservative organization was "growing like wildfire" in his part of the state.

Robert B. Snowden of Hughes, a farmer and Memphis businessman, said he didn't know how many chapters East Arkansas had but "I hope that soon there will be one in every community."

A Nashville, Tenn., automobile salesman now working for the Society at Memphis told the Memphis Commercial Appeal that the Society had six chapters in the Eastern half of Arkansas and seven in Northern Mississippi. The salesman, who identified Snowden as a member, said it had five chapters in Memphis.

The Gazette learned last week that there were three chapters at Little Rock and several in other towns around the state including Searcy and Nashville.

The semi-secret Society is run by Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, Mass., a former candy manufacturer. He boasts that it fights communism with communism's own methods including "exposure" of persons he considers Communists, the establishment of fronts (such as the Committee for the Impeachment of Earl Warren) and unquestioning acceptance of his one-man control.

'Whale of a Group'

Snowden said the Society was "a whale of a good organization" but he criticized Welch on one key point: Calling former President Dwight D. Eisenhower a Communist. He said he and other Society leaders had urged Welch not to do it.

Welch has been quoted as writing: "Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party."

Snowden said Welch wasn't representing the Society when he said that.

Another Group

An organization akin to the Society in some respects cropped up over the week end at North Little Rock.

The Arkansas Laymen, Inc., headed by Doyle K. Venable, a Levy businessman, revealed that it was circulating a petition urging that impeachment proceedings be brought against Earl Warren, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Ouster of Warren is one of the chief objectives of the Birch Society.

Venable said yesterday the Laymen had 160 members in five Arkansas cities—Little Rock, North Little Rock, Hazen, Star City and Malvern—but the North Little Rock chapter still was the only one in existence. It has been meeting for about one and one-half years.

He said the Laymen had revised the charter several months ago to allow other chapters to be formed over the state. He said he expected others to organize shortly.

Venable insisted that the Laymen was not a front organization for the Birch Society and that he was not a member of the Society.

He said he had read some of

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Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tracy
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COMMUNIST MATTERS

LRFILE: 100-3346

62-104401

ARKANSAS GAZETTE XX
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
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the Society's literature and that from what he had read he approved of the Society wholeheartedly.

He observed that the Laymen and the Birch Society coincided in their views on Warren, but he said that a great many persons disliked Warren.

Alford's Sympathy

Venable said the Laymen had asked Representative Dale Alford to start proceedings against Warren and that Alford had replied that he was in sympathy with the organization's objectives.

Venable said Alford wrote that he had been getting mail from all over the country urging Warren's impeachment and the outlawing of the Communist Party.

He said the Laymen would hold a public meeting in April.

'We Aren't Radical'

Venable insisted that the Laymen was not a radical organization.

"Those who have known me out here know that I would never be attached to a radical group," he said.

"We are a conservative group who believe only in government help where the people cannot help themselves."

The reason the Laymen wanted to impeach Warren, he said, was "not only because he has voted (in our belief) in favor of the Communist cause 90 per cent of the time, but because he was never qualified in the first place. He never had any judicial experience. That alone is enough to disqualify Earl Warren." The parentheses are Venable's.

Birch Society's Rolls?

Snowden wouldn't say how how many chapters of the Birch Society were in Arkansas, but he estimated about 4,000 in the country, each with about 20 members.

He said that the Society so far had been very effective.

"It's getting so big that it's getting to hurt the left wing. The left wing is beginning to squel."

Snowden insisted there was nothing fascist about the Society and that it was not a McCarthy-like organization.

The reason it had been secret he said, was that the members were "hard-working people" who didn't want to get involved in controversy.

"But I'll defend it until hell freezes over," he declared.

He said Welch had visited East Arkansas a number of times. He said he was a personal friend of Welch and that Welch was a "very fine person."

Welch's condemnation of former President Eisenhower and his brother Milton was unfortunate and did not express the views of the organization, Snowden said.

"He said that in a series of letters he wrote to his friends," Snowden explained. "We founders called his attention to it, but he was bullheaded and went ahead and said it."

Snowden called the Society "the one great hope of the country."

0-19 (Rev. 2-13-61)

John Birch 'Antis' Point Unwelcome Spotlight

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The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
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By James E. Clayton
Staff Reporter

THREE MONTHS AGO, the John Birch Society had been heard of only in a few scattered areas of the country. Its desire to operate quietly and behind the scenes was generally being fulfilled.

But almost overnight, the Society has become an organization of national interest. Newspapers on both coasts have denounced it. Two United States Senators have spoken against it on the Senate floor. Former Vice President Nixon has joined the protests. Time magazine has given the Society a critical analysis.

The Society has attracted this attention because of:

• Its strong views on many topics. It thinks that everything from increased spending for defense to Federal aid to education is part of a Communist plot.

• The attacks made by its leader, Robert Welch, on the loyalty of America's leaders. These include former President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Warren, former Secretary of State Dulles and CIA director Allen Dulles, all of whom Welch says are Communist agents or sympathizers.

• The secrecy which surrounds the Society and the amount of money which it apparently has to spend.

Conservative Complaints

TWO WEEKS AGO, the Los Angeles Times, a conservative newspaper, said editorially: "If the John Birchers follow the program of their leader, they will bring our institutions into question exactly as the Communists try to do. They will sow distrust, and aggravate disputes, and they will weaken the very strong case for conservatism."

The same day, the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, chief executive officer of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States, told a church group in Santa Barbara that the Society was waging a "campaign of falsehoods" against that church.

On March 8, on the Senate floor, Sen. Milton J. Young (R-N. D.) said, "It is unbelievable that any sane person would make such accusations" (as the Society's leader has made against former President Eisenhower).

Other Senators have also expressed concern about the power of the Society. Sen. Young, a conservative Republican, says he has been attacked as being a helper of the Communists. The same attack has been mounted against Sen. Mike Mansfield, a liberal Democrat from Montana, and Sen. Thomas C. Kuchel, a liberal Republican from California. The attack against Kuchel and Young has been particularly vigorous, apparently because they are up for re-election in 1962.

But not a great deal is known here about the Society. It has not been particularly active in the Washington area although it apparently has at least one chapter here. Sen. Mansfield said that he had been unable to find out much about it although he tried to get information from "various committees (on Capitol Hill) or the agencies downtown."

On March 20, the United Press International reported that the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is telling inquirers that the Society "seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization." The Los Angeles Times, however, implied that the group was subversive—from the right instead of from the left.

Last Tuesday, Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D-S. C.) came to the Society's defense. It is a "Nation-wide organization of patriotic Americans," he said in a statement in the Congressional Record. The source of the charges which smear the organization, he said, is a publication of the Communist Party.

This is a report on the Society and what it believes and does.

The Founding Dozen

WHAT IS the Society? How is it organized?

The John Birch Society is the creation of Robert Welch, 61, a former candy company executive who lives in Belmont, Mass. It was organized in Indianapolis in December, 1958, at a meeting of 12 men who have never been publicly identified.

That meeting was a two-day affair devoted largely to speeches by Welch. Most of what he said was later published in the Blue Book of the Society, copyrighted by Welch.

That book says the Society is to have small local chapters, usually of 10 to 20 "dedicated patriots." Each chapter should have a leader appointed by Welch or one of his officers. Sen. Young called these groups "cells" but received a heated protest from the Society. Cells is the term applied to similar units of the Communist Party organization.

The Society is "a monolithic body"

operating under "complete authoritarian control at all levels." A republican form of government or organization has advantages, the book says, under favorable circumstances. "But under less happy circumstances," it goes on, "it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organization, as the Greeks and Romans both found out, and as I believe every man in this room recognizes—democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

Newspapers which have written about the Society have quoted these statements to show that it is ruled by Welch and is opposed to democracy.

In a letter printed in the Congressional Record last week, Robert D. Love, a Wichita businessman and Society member, said, "These statements have been pulled completely out of context and made to smear something which could help to inform people of the true dangers of communism."

'Believe in Me'

WELCH ALSO told the Indianapolis meeting that those who join the Society "are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership. And we are going to use that loyalty, like any other resource, to the fullest possible advantage that we can . . . Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out . . ."

Welch said then that he hoped to have 30,000 members by the end of 1959. Interviewed last summer by Stanley Eames of the Boston Herald, Welch said there were chapters in 20 states, including 25 chapters near Boston.

Gene Blake of the Los Angeles Times reported early this month that Paul H. (Tex) Talbert, a Beverly Hills insurance executive and a member of the Society's national council, said there were several thousand members in scores of chapters in California. Blake says there are chapters in 34 states and members in all 50 states.

As of last summer, the Society had 52 employes, Eames reported. He added that Welch told him there was an effort to get several chapters in each city. In one Texas city, Welch said, there are three chapters—one for financial people, one for carpenters and one for Negroes.

Membership costs at least $24 a year for men and $12 for women. Fund-raising outside of dues has apparently been successful since the Society appears to spend large sums on staff and publications. Some of the members are wealthy conservatives who apparently believe in the Society's goals if not in all of Welch's personal ideas.

A list of members of the Society's national council was put into the Congressional Record by Rep. Rivers. It contains 25 names, many those of leading businessmen. Among them:

Cola G. Parker and William J. Grede, Wisconsin industrialists, and Ernest G. Swigert, Oregon manufacturer, all past presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers; T. Coleman Andrews, former Commissioner of Internal Revenue; Spruille Braden, former diplomat; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School; M. T. Phelps, former Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court; F. Gano Chance, former president of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce; Louis Ruthenburg, former president of Servel, Inc., and Fred C. Koch, president of the Rock Island Oil & Refining Co.

Welch has given these men the job of showing the stature of the organization, of advising him and of selecting "a successor to myself as head . . . if and when an accident, 'suicide' or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists—or I simply die in bed . . ."

'Communist Line'

WHAT DOES the John Birch Society stand for? It's objective, Welch told the Indianapolis meeting, is simply "less government and more responsibility."

This, however, is tied closely with a drive against international communism. The Communists are rapidly taking over the United States, the Society thinks, and must be stopped. The Communist method of taking over, it says, is to increase government.

Thus, the things which international communism wants the United States to do are these:

- Increase defense and foreign aid spending, making higher taxes, an unbalanced budget and inflation possible.
- Increase governmental controls over prices, wages and material so that power will be centralized in Washington.
- Worry about the horror of modern warfare so that the beauties of peace become attractive and lead the

Robert H. W. Welch Jr., former Massachusetts candy company executive, is pictured at the 1956 National States Rights Conference at Memphis, which he addressed.

Nation to appeasement of the Communists.

Those who favor these ideas are either Communists or dupes of the Communists, the Society says. Into these categories it puts most recent Secretaries of State and Defense. This is where Welch's personal views come into play, particularly since he is the absolute master of the Society.

At the Indianapolis meeting, he attacked both President Kennedy and former Vice President Nixon. Never naming Mr. Kennedy, Welch made it clear that he thinks the President is an "amoral man" who can do "a tremendous amount of ball carrying on the behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States."

Nixon, Welch said, would be a patriotic anti-Communist only if it fit his political career. Nixon pulled off "the dirtiest deal in American political history," Welch said, by upsetting the Taft bandwagon in the 1952 Republican convention. If Taft had been President,

See SOCIETY, Page E5, Column 1

SOCIETY, From Page 11

Welch said, the Communists would have been routed from government and the Nation would not be in "this mess" today.

IN A BOOK called "The Politician," circulated to only a few selected leaders of the Society, Welch really lets down his views. When Jack Mabley of the Chicago Daily News came across a copy last summer, he asked a chapter leader if it was given to all Society members.

Mabley says the response was that giving the book to members before they became "qualified" would be like telling a first-year medical student to go out and cure cancer.

In the book, Welch accuses former President Eisenhower, most of his chief aides and many other Government leaders of being a part of the international Communist conspiracy.

"While I too think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct," it says. "But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

WHEN ASKED about this book by reporter Eames, Welch said, "Four-fifths of our members never have seen it and most of those who have don't agree with it."

When he asked Welch flatly if former President Eisenhower was a Communist, Eames reports that Welch said, "I never felt that way enough to say it in print. Now I don't know what I think. Eisenhower may be too dumb to be a Communist."

Eames notes that a Jan. 1, 1960, footnote to "The Politician" says, "A huge majority of Eisenhower's appointments during the past year make no sense whatever except as a part of a plan to help the Communists."

WELCH ALSO runs a yearly chart in American Opinion, a magazine he edits, on how much of the world is Communist controlled. He listed the United States as 20 to 40 per cent Communist controlled in 1958 and 30 to 50 per cent by mid-1959.

On other topics, Welch has said:

American churches: "One-third of the ministers are not true belivers in the Divine names or the Divine history and Divine teachings to which they give lip service . . . ." Some, he says, preach communism from their pulpits.

The Marshall Plan: "A brilliant scheme of the Communists to get the United States to do exactly what the Communists wanted us to do."

Desegregation: "The trouble in our Southern states has been fomented almost entirely by the Communists for this purpose (civil war) . . . . The whole slogan of 'civil,' as used to make trouble in the South today, is an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China."

The United Nations: Part of a plan to "induce the gradual surrender of American sovereignty."

His own movement: "We are not beginning any revolution, nor even a counter-revolution, in any technical sense, because we are opposing a conspiracy, yet we are not ourselves making use of conspiratorial methods. Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff out of which revolutions are made."

HOW DOES the John Birch Society work? Its problem in Indianapolis was to select a leader. Welch rejected Nixon and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.).

He said he thought Goldwater was totally loyal and would make a fine President. But, he added, "Does anybody in this room think there is any slightest chance of Barry Goldwater supplying the dynamic overall leadership needed to save this country for anybody to be President of? If so, I think he is still not fully aware of the nature and totality of the forces at work. For Goldwater . . . . will inevitably think and move in terms of political warfare."

Then Welch suggested himself:

"It is not because I want so frightening a responsibility and it is certainly not because I think that you gentlemen . . . recognize any such quality of leadership in me as would make me a happy choice for the role.

"It's just that I don't know where you, or all of us, are going to find anybody else to undertake the job."

WITH THAT out of the way, Welch outlined the action program for the Society.

First, he said, it must set up reading rooms in as many cities and towns as possible. It now has such rooms in, at least, California and Florida.

Second, it must get the "truth about recent history and current events into as many hands and heads as possible." It should put the National Review into college libraries, the Dan Smoot Review into doctors' and dentists' offices and Human Events and American Opinion into barbershops.

Third, it should help increase the audience of such radio programs as those of Fulton Lewis jr. and Clarence Manion.

Fourth, it should organize letter writing campaigns. Some Senators think they are now receiving some of this mail.

Fifth, it "should organize fronts — little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts." He suggested A Petition to Impeach Earl Warren (this is now being circulated), A Petition headed Please, Mr. President, Don't Go (this was circulated just before last spring's abortive summit meeting) and a Committee to Investigate Communist Influences at Vassar College.

Sixth, other suggestions included exposing why the Communists "just had to get rid of McCarthy, and went to such extreme lengths to do so"; heckling speakers who urge programs the Society disagrees with (this happened in Cincinnati recently); lining up speakers all over the country, and getting into political action.

ERIC SEVAREID recently wrote what all this means in a small Midwestern city he visited:

"On a street in Kansas, my host stopped his car to point to a new office building. 'He owns that, and a lot else besides,' my host explained. 'He's got money and influence. He couldn't tell a Communist from Robert A. Taft, but he's trying to get his crackpots onto the school board and a lot of us are worried.'

"'He' is the local boss of the John Birch Society . . . 'They organize in task forces,' my host went on. 'They call school teachers and local college professors in the middle of the night and denounce them as Communists. They recruit kids as spies to take down classroom remarks of their teachers.

"'They plant people in public lectures to ask loaded questions. They try to get their idiotic films and maps used in high schools. Maybe it's hard these days to get a man smeared in Washington, or even in Hollywood, but in a small city like this . . . it can still be done.'"

WHO WAS John Birch? A native of Georgia, Birch was a missionary to China who joined Gen. Clare Chennault's forces there in 1942. He was killed 10 days after V-J Day by, Welch says, the Chinese Communists.

His death, Welch says, was "the first casualty in the third world war, between the Communists and the ever shrinking free world."

0-19 (Rev. 2-13-61)

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BIRCH GROUP STIRS WIDER COAST SPLIT

Right-Wing Society Drawing Sharper Criticism—Inquiry Ordered in California

Special to The New York Times.

LOS ANGELES, March 25—The John Birch Society received sharp scrutiny and criticism this week in California.

Legislators and educators spoke out against the Right-Wing, anti-Communist organization that has gained adherents in Southern California and elsewhere.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown, a Democrat, said the society's motives should be ascertained "because fascism is just as dangerous as Communism." He ordered State Attorney General Stanley Mosk to investigate the group's operations.

Earlier, former Vice President Richard M. Nixon said that he opposed the society's political techniques. Some observers contend that it uses tactics similar to those employed by the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin. The society was named for an American missionary executed as a spy by the Chinese Communists.

There future occurrences promise to heighten the controversy.

¶In Sacramento Tuesday, the State Assembly Rules Committee will hear a resolution asking Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States, to investigate the society nationally.

¶The society's founder, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., is scheduled to speak April 12 at a high school in Santa Barbara on April 12.

¶A hearing has been set for June by the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee. The chairman, Senator Hugh Burns, a Fresno Democrat, sent a wire to Mr. Welch asking him to "keep us posted as to your whereabouts and activities."

Senator Burns commented, "Any movement, from the unbalanced Right or the unbalanced Left, which tears the country apart by rumor, slander, fear and doubt, must necessarily be suspect."

Paul H. Talbert of Beverly Hills, a member of the society's national council, countered with a demand for an immediate investigation.

"A dozen, or a hundred, or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify," Mr. Welch said in a supporting telegram. "We can assure you that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment."

Mr. Talbert added, "This goes to prove how deadly our enemy is—to be able to pull off this concentrated attack on the John Birch Society."

He criticized Governor Brown for refusing to ban a speech on the University of California's Berkeley campus by Frank Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson recently lost his appeal to the United States Supreme Court for failing to cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The attack by educators and clergy was centered on the society's activities in Santa Barbara.

Dr. Samuel B. Gould, chancellor of the University of California at Santa Barbara, decried a student group that he said was "being encouraged to be informers" against the faculty.

He said that he and other university officials had been "vilified in whispering campaigns, all purporting to prove that we are not only less than loyal to America, but are downright subversive."

Officials attempted to connect the student with the Birch society, which reportedly has been strongly backed by wealthy Santa Barbarans.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, the stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, in the United States, called the society's manifesto "fascist." He urged Presbyterians to "wake up to what is happening to you under the guse of anti-communism."

Dr. Blake accused the society of conducting "a campaign of false witness" against the church and its leaders.

"Don't let your Americanism and your Presbyterianism be corrupted by those who would substitute a Fuehrer principle for our free society," Dr. Blake said.

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times 60
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
Date

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191 APR 12 1961

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Oil Geologist Serving As Unofficial Chairman In N.D.

J. Blaine Miller, Bismarck geologist, serves as unofficial "state chairman" for the John Birch Society in North Dakota.

Actually, there is no chairmanship position. Miller is a "voluntary coordinator" for some of the Birch chapters in the state.

Miller is co-chairman in North Dakota, with Brooks Keech of Keene, of the Committee for Economic Freedom, which advocates a proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

This is the proposal to repeal the federal income tax and "get government out of business" which caused an uproar during the last session of the North Dakota legislature. A resolution passed the House, but was killed in the Senate.

However, Miller emphasizes, the Committee for Economic Freedom is not a "front" of the Birch group.

Miller is a tall, blonde, handsome, 35-year-old ex-Oklahoman, who moved to Bismarck six years ago.

Miller

Employed by an oil company, he is scheduled to be transferred to Oklahoma City on June 1.

Politically, Miller, a Republican, considers himself "middle of the road" or one who "believes in the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land."

He defines a left-winger as an individual who wants to "completely socialize" the country and a right-winger as one who wants to "return to the days of debtor's prisons."

Miller became alarmed at the Communist threat after reading several books, including "Wedemeyer Reports," by A. C. Wedemeyer; "Masters of Deceit," by J. Edgar Hoover; "I Saw Poland Betrayed," by Arthur Bliss Lane; "The Naked Communist," by W. Cleon Skousen; "From Major Jordan's Diaries," by George R. Jordan; and "Keynes at Harvard," by the Veritas Foundation.

He grew interested in the John Birch Society after visiting with a Texas friend and helped organize the first chapter in Bismarck.

Miller was an Army paratrooper from 1944-46. He served with the occupation forces in Japan.

Miller is a 1950 graduate of Tulsa University, with a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

He is married and the father of three children.

Miller also is a much better than average golfer. He carded a 32 one Sunday last summer to tie the course record at Apple Creek Country Club in Bismarck.

"I just got lucky," he said.

MINOT DAILY NEWS
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA
DATE: 3-25-61
EDITOR: RAYMOND C. DOBSON
MINNEAPOLIS FIELD OFFIC

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Not Backing Birch Group, Hoover Says

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has informed U. S. Sen. Milton R. Young that he does not endorse the John Birch Society, a right-wing political action group, the North Dakota senator disclosed today.

Hoover's letter to Young read: "I have been advised of your call to my office regarding the John Birch Society, and in response to your inquiry regarding

Stories On Birch Society Appear On Page 7

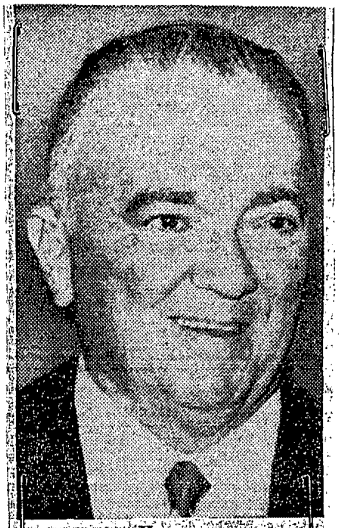
this organization, I wish to advise that I have not endorsed this group or its activities in any fashion whatsoever.

"You also made inquiry regarding a statement which has been erroneously attributed to me to the effect that up to 80 per cent of the top officials of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are Communists or are under Communist infuence. This is, of course, a completely ridiculous assertion and when a report of this matter was brought to my attention recently it was promptly and emphatically denied as a fabrication.

"Your interest in contacting me regarding this situation is very much appreciated, and I assure you we are aways happy to be of any possible service or assistance."

* * * * *

Young has exchanged broadsides recently with members of the society and has termed "vicious" charges of the society's founder against former President Eisenhower.



Hoover

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Mr. Conrad
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Mr. Rosen
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Mr. Trotter
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

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Roberts -1244

J.F. Chaghatti -4736

MINOT DAILY NEWS
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA
DATE - MARCH 25, 1961
EDITOR - RAYMOND C. DOBSON
MINNEAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

File
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Critics Lash At 'Vicious' Charges

By DICK DOBSON
Of The News State Capitol Bureau

BISMARCK—What is the John Birch Society? Why was it organized? What are its methods of operation?

These are questions that are being asked today by thousands, if not millions, of Americans.

Formed in late 1958, the society worked in semi-secrecy for about two years, until rocketing to national prominence almost overnight.

The issue exploded when it was revealed that the society's founder had, in 1954, accused former President Dwight D. Eisenhower of being a Communist.

Robert Welch, a retired Belmont, Mass., businessman, and boss of the Birchians, made the allegation against Eisenhower.

He also said that ex-President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman were used by the Reds for their purposes.

The upshot, in the last month, has been a flood of newspaper editorials, magazine articles and congressional statements angrily denouncing the John Birch Society.

Sen. Milton R. Young of North Dakota replied to the "vicious charges" by remarking, "To label some of our most loyal and dedicated people as Communists plays right into the hands of the Communist movement."

Two North Dakota members of the Society deplore the "national effort to discredit it."

They are J. Blaine Miller, Bismarck geologist, and Martin Vaaler, president of the state Public Service Commission.

"The most vehement criticism," commented Miller, "is coming from those who are least informed."

Vaaler described the organization as a "patriotic group whose central idea is for less government interference and more individuality."

First, explains Miller, the charge that Ike is a Communist "has nothing to do whatsoever with the society."

The accusation was contained in a so-called "book" entitled "The Politician," which was written by Welch four years before he started organizing the John Birch Society.

Actually, the "book" is a voluminous letter sent by Welch to a few "intimate friends."

It was eventually expanded to 302 pages, but never published or distributed, according to Miller.

Members of the anti-Communist brotherhood may, at their individual discretion, accept or reject the premises of "The Politician," stated Miller.

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MINOT DAILY NEWS
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA
DATE: 3-25-61
EDITOR: RAYMOND C. DOBSON
MINNEAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

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"It is a misunderstanding," contends Miller, to confuse "The Politician" of 1954 with the John Birch Society of 1961.

"Our critics have not taken the time to learn our objectives and principles," said Miller.

Welch organized the John Birch Society on Dec. 8-9, 1958, at Indianapolis, Ind.

He called together 11 "patriotic and public-spirited" men and lectured them for two days on the threat of the "International Communist Conspiracy."

Welch, 61, is a retired candy manufacturer. He was a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years.

His biography reads, "Educated at the University of North Carolina (four years), U. S. Naval Academy (two years), Harvard Law School (two years), and school of hard knocks (about forty years)."

According to his admirers, he is a persuasive speaker and a prolific writer.

At the conclusion of the Indianapolis session, Welch suggested the formation of a society dedicated first to "destroying the Communist tyranny" and then driving on "towards an era of less government and more responsibility, in which we can create a better world."

Welch proposed naming the new society in honor of John Birch, an Army captain murdered by Chinese communists on Aug. 25, 1945.

Birch was a young Christian missionary, who voluntarily joined Gen. Claire Chennault's forces in China on July 4, 1942.

Ten days after V-J day, he became "probably the first American casualty in that third World War, between the Communists and the ever-shrinking 'free world,' which is still being waged . . ."

The text of Welch's address has been reproduced in the Blue Book, a document of about 200 pages, which is a guide to the society's actions.

The Birchians call themselves "americanists," a word defined as the antithesis of "communists."

In 28 months, the John Birch Society has acquired members in every state. Its goal is to enroll a million members.

The group has organized local chapters, usually consisting of 10 to 20 members each, in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

Except for a few leaders, the number and names of members are held in strict secrecy because, said Miller, "It would serve no useful purpose to reveal them."

Miller did say that Rep. R. Fay Brown of Bismarck, speaker of the North Dakota House of Representatives, "is not now nor has he ever been a John Birch Society member," as charged in a Jamestown Sun article.)

However, the society-sponsored publications, including the Blue Book, the Life of John Birch, and American Opinion magazine, are "available to anyone," noted Miller.

A dozen chapters have been set up in North Dakota since last September, according to Miller.

There are four in Bismarck, three in Williston, and one each in Fargo, Braddock, Washburn, Watford City and rural McKenzie County.

Members include businessmen, doctors, dentists, geologists, public officials, lawyers, farmers and housewives, said Miller.

Sen. Young observed that the society "has among its members some of the most able and influential people in each community."

On April 13-14, Don Rueber of Milwaukee, a "major coordinator" for the society, will visit North Dakota in search of more membership.

Rueber, a salaried Birch employe, will be showing a two-hour movie of a Welch speech to select audiences in various cities.

Annual society dues are $24 for men and $12 for women. Life memberships cost $1,000.

Time magazine reported that the Birch "cells" (or chapters) "take orders from society headquarters (and) promote Communist-style front organizations that do not use the John Birch name.

"Carefully avoiding normal channels of political action, the society accepts the hard-boiled, dictatorial direction of one man."

Miller's and Vaaler's description differs with Time's.

The basic unit of organization, the chapter, meets about once a month, usually in a private home, to discuss "suggested, coordinated action" proposed in bulletins mailed periodically from society headquarters, located in Belmont, Mass.

"There always are some disagreements among individual members," maintained Miller.

However, the advantage of the John Birch Society over a proliferation of other anti-communist organizations, he said, is that it is "an action group, and not a debating club."

"That is why I joined the society," intoned Vaaler.

Other anti-Red groups, such as the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, and Moral Rearmament "publicize the problem, but offer no solution," claimed Miller.

"Khrushchev was not kidding when he said our children would live under socialism," commented Miller, who believes the United States may reach the "point of no return in two or three years.'

Communist forces are on the march around the globe. In addition, he thinks the country is socializing itself from within.

Welch has mapped a ten-point "action program" for the "defeat of the Communist conspiracy:"

1. Dissemination of Americanist books and pamphlets, such as J. Edgar Hoover's "Masters of Deceit," as widely as possible.

2. Increasing the readership of Americanist periodicals, such as American Opinion, National Review, Human Events and Dan Smoot Report.

3. Enlarging the audiences of Americanist commentators and newscasters, like Fulton Lewis Jr. and Dean Clarence Manion.

4. Making some effective use of the weapon of letter writing.

5. Organizing Americanist fronts, such as the Movement To Impeach Earl Warren and the Committee Against Summit Entanglements.

6. Waking up the American people to the seriousness of the danger of exposing, wherever possible, pro-Communist activities.

7. Making it more difficult for "dozens of slimy characters" to appear before unsuspecting audiences.

8. Making Americanist speakers available.

9. Supplying encouragement to anti-Communist refugee groups throughout the country.

10. Carrying on an educational campaign on the political front.

One of the foremost projects undertaken by the Birchians has been the demand for the impeachment of Earl Warren, chief justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

(Impeachment does not constitute removal from office. It is "the arraignment of a public officer for malfeasance.")

Welch charges that the Supreme Court has "become one of the most important agencies of the Communist Global Conquest."

Warren, he said, "is powerfully entrenched at the very heart of the Establishment that has been running the Roosevelt-Truman-Eisenhower - Kennedy Administrations."

Welch concedes that "dislodging Warren from Washington could be as difficult as kicking Khrushchev out of the Kremlin."

Another society project is to support a proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution to repeal the 16th amendment (individual income

tax) and to force the federal government to dispose of all its holdings, except as constitutionally specified.

The Birchians also back up the House Committee on Un-American Activities against Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.) and others who want to abolish it.

A fourth major project is the "continuing drive against the sale in this country of goods made by slave labor in Communist nations."

These items, mostly made in eastern Europe, range from wooden coat hangers to canned hams.

In the political sphere, the Birch "partisans have made their anonymous and unsettling presence felt in scores of U. S. communities," reported Time.

According to Welch, "In the 1960 campaigns the John Birch Society, as an organization, took no part. Our official job was to supply our members more information about, and a better understanding of, both men and issues."

Each individual Birchian "then worked and voted entirely according to his own judgment and conscience," said Welch, who "personally supported Goldwater for the Republican nomination."

However, reports that Birchians were using various arm-bending tactics, such as economic coercion, came from Wichita, Kan., and elsewhere.

Sen. Young claimed, "They have accused me of being about every kind of a scoundrel, including a Communist or pro-Communist."

Miller emphatically denied that any underhanded methods were used by North Dakota members last fall.

He also said it was "insane" and "absolutely not true" to assume that the society considers all its opponents to be pro-Communists.

In North Dakota, society members are simply urged to play an active role, as individuals, in political affairs, he maintained.

As Welch is the self-anointed leader of the Birchians, his opinions presumably reflect the general thinking of the members, although there may exist shades or outright disagreements.

In the Blue Book, Welch left little or no room for dissent by saying, "We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme."

Later, however, in a monthly bulletin, he wrote that it was not "necessary" or "desirable" that all members always think alike.

"One of the very things we are trying to prevent is the conversion of our civilization into a collection of standardized robots," Welch pointed out.

What does Welch believe?

Many of his current ideas are found in a booklet called "A World Gone Crazy," in which he surveys the degree of Communist influence in each of 107 countries.

From his "scoreboard," he concludes "that the Communists have now covered well over two-thirds of the total distance to their final goal of world-wide dominion."

The United States, he figured, was 40-to-60 per cent Communist-controlled, as of June 1, 1960, compared with 20-to-40 in 1958 and 30-to-50 in 1959.

Only five countries are "relatively safe," with 0-to-20 per cent Communist control. They are Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain.

Welch listed 29 countries "in danger" (but still less than 50 per cent); 13 "teetering on the edge" (40-to-60); 28 "sliding into the abyss (definitely over 50); and 32 "under Communist slavery."

The boxscore on some other nations are: Canada, 40-to-60; France 30-to-50; Great Britain, 50-to-70; India, 60-to-80; Israel, 40-to-60; Sweden, 20-to-40; Thailand, 50-to-70; United Arab Republic, 80-to-100; and South Vietnam, 70-to-90.

Welch also contended that "all available evidence" indicates that U-2 pilot Gary Powers "must have purposely landed his plane in Russia" last May 1.

The "objectives of those who planned the incident," said Welch, "must have been: (1) to give the Soviet a model to duplicate; (2) to provide the American Communists with an excuse for getting reconnaissance over Russia suspended; and (3) to postpone the 'Summit Conference' with a maximum of public disgrace to the United States."

Other Welchian statements, appearing in the Blue Book, are just as provocative. For example, Welch also believes:

1. The so-called "International Communist Conspiracy" now reaches "into all of the legislative halls, all of the union labor meetings, a majority of the religious gatherings, and most of the schools of the whole world."

2. Indian Prime Minister Nehru

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and Egyptian President Nasser are puppets of the Kremlin.

3. The United States' foreign aid program was planned by Communists to weaken our economy.

4. Stalin, an amoral man, was "infinitely worse" than Hitler, an immoral man, because when they liquidated people, Hitler's conscience bothered him, while Stalin "simply wiped out his conscience."

5. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Gen. George C. Marshall were responsible for getting the United States into World War II.

6. "Democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud." (Welch favors a republic form of government.)

7. Cuban Premier Fidel Castro is a Communist. (Welch wrote this a month before Castro overthrew the regime of Fulgencio Bastista.)

Anyone who expresses opinions as strongly as Welch does is certain to eventually create a storm of controversy about himself and the society he organized.

Sen. Young remarked, "My mail is heavy but I am pleased to note that about 95 per cent of the letters are favorable" (to the stand taken by Young).

Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, Democratic floor leader, said "something is wrong somewhere" when "any organization accuses a President of the United States" of being a Communist.

The Chicago Daily News termed the John Birch Society a "strange threat to democracy."

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon warned Americans against adopting Communist tactics to fight subversives in this country.

"It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality," said Nixon.

"But in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right, but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism."

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, chief executive officer of the United Presbyterian Church, stated the society is waging "campaigns of falsehoods" against the church.

Hans Engh of the Santa Barbara News-Press, writing in the Nation magazine, said the Birchians represent "that regressive force which, under one guise or another, seems to pop up whenever the country as a whole seems destined to move into a more progressive era."

A front-page editorial in the Los Angeles Times called the Birch group a "peril to conservatives."

"If the John Birchers follow the program of their leader," the

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Times said, "they will sow distrust, and aggravate disputes, and they will weaken the very strong case for conservatism."

Otis Chandler, publisher of the Times, concludes, "Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion." Sen. Young said he agreed with this viewpoint.

Conservative columnist George Sokolsky noted the "country is developing a large number of peculiar and subversive organizations, many of them in the guise of anti-communistic, some representing a pseudo - conservatism, some pursuing purposes which, if carried through, could damage this country."

Sokolsky suggested that a congressional investigation of "these new efforts to mobilize persons in activities designed to unsettle and disturb this country" might be warranted.

"That would be welcome," observed Miller, "because nothing could be more beneficial to the John Birch Society."

Miller also flatly rejected accusations that the society was "neo-facist" and "would substitute a fuhrer principle for our free society."

Most of the criticism of the society, Miller contended, is based on "misunderstanding" and "distortions" in Time's article.

He pointed out that the Cardina

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Mindszenty Foundation lists one of the Communist objectives for 1961 as "infiltration and smearing of anti-Communist groups by paid crackpots and hired disseminators of 'hate' literature."

Vaaler said if Sen. Young visited a chapter meeting, he would "never find a more dedicated and sincere group of Americans."

Richard Cardinal Cushing, archbishop of Boston, endorsed the society a year ago. In answer to an inquiry, he replied, "I do not know of any more dedicated anti-communist in the country than Robert Welch. I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society."

George Todt, columnist for the Los Angeles Herald-Express, wrote he was "impressed" with the "dedication to anti-Communism and constitutional Americanism" of the Birchians.

The Arizona Republic, published in Phoenix, labeled the Birch group as "freedom's missionaries."

Most Rev. Mark K. Carroll, bishop of Wichita, decided the "principles describing the philosophy of the society are nothing more than the Ten Commandments of God in modern language."

Welch presides over the 25-man national council of the John Birch Society, much as a president with his cabinet.

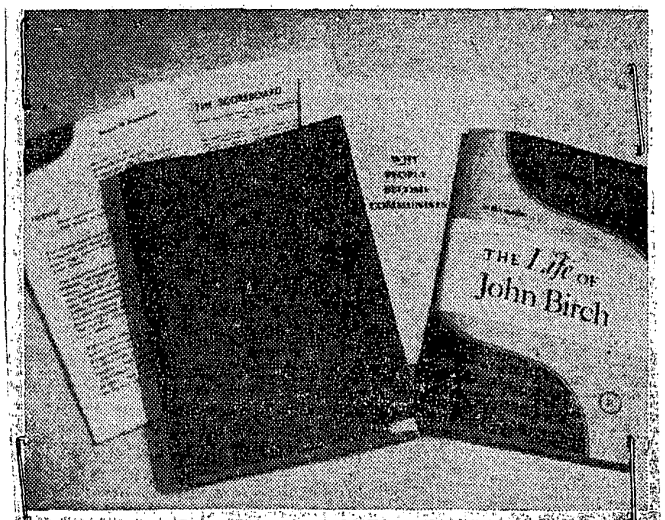
Council members include William J. Grede, Cola G. Parker and Ernest G. Swigert, all past presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Others are Thomas J. Anderson, publisher of Farm and Ranch paper; T. Coleman Andrews, former commissioner of Internal Revenue; Spruille Braden, former assistant secretary of state; Col. Laurence E. Bunker, former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame law school; and Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III, retired Air Force officer.

Whether one joins the John Birch Society or not depends to a great extent on the individual's estimation of "the seriousness and imminence of the threat from the International Communist Criminal Conspiracy," noted Miller.

Truman Wold, chapter leader in Fargo, remarked, "Anyone who attempts to do anything positive against communism is accused of being an under-the-bed looker."

Said Wold, "You don't have to look under the bed, just look around and they (the Communists) are all over the place."



Some Literature Of Birch Society

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REC-60

Member of John Birch Society Here Tells How It Operates

By BARNEY SCOFIELD
Press Staff Writer

Among Texans identified in the Congressional Record as members of the "Committee of Endorsers" of the controversial "anti-Communist" John Birch Society is Mrs. Walter L. Goldston of 5 Briarwood, Houston.

Her name, along with six other Texans, was placed in the record by Rep. Mendel Rivers, D.-S.C., in a defense of the Conservative organization under fire as a secret society.

Terming charges against the society "ridiculous," Mrs. Goldston, the 61-year-old widow of an independent oil operator and grandmother of two, told The Press:

"We're very conservative in our thinking and we believe in less government and more responsibility for individuals.

"But our main objective is the same as most patirotic Americans—to fight communism."

Mrs. Goldston said she became a member of the John Birch Society about a year ago after viewing a film at a friend's house. The film, she said, was against Communism and narrated by Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., the society's controversial founder.

Members of the society form discussion groups, never more than 15 to 20 in number, and meet once a month in each other's home, Mrs. Goldston said.

Annual dues, she said, are $12 for women and $24 for men.

The funds are unaccounted for, she said, but go to Belmont where a monthly bulletin and magazine, "The American Opinion," are published.

Said Mrs. Goldston:

"I'm sure there are thousands of members in Houston, but I don't know who they are or where they meet.

"Local organization is kept se-

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File
62-104401

THE HOUSTON PRESS
3-24-61
Houston, Texas
RE: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(HOfile: 62-1521)
HOUSTON DIVISION

EX-112

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Birch Group Promised State Probe

SACRAMENTO, March 24—(AP)—The State Senate Un-American Activities Committee has announced it will hold hearings on the John Birch Society after the Legislature adjourns — if the society's founder agrees to appear.

Chairman Hugh Burns (D., Fresno) disclosed the plans yesterday in a wire to Robert Welch in Belmont, Mass., who had "urgently demanded" committee investigation because of complains about the right-wing society by state officials and legislators.

He said his members would "gladly testify" before the committee.

"We have been aware of your society's existence and have made some investigation of its activities," Burns wired. "In the normal course of events we would expect to continue this investigation at the conclusion of the current session of the Legislature.

"At that time, you will be beyond the jurisdiction of a California legislative committee. However, if you are still willing to appear before our committee, we will arrange such a hearing."

REC-60

File 62-104401

OAKLAND TRIBUNE
Oakland, California
Date: 3-24-61
Edition: RED STREAK
City Editor: FRANK WOOTTEN
Publisher: JOSEPH R. KNOWLAND
Case:

Classification:

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EX-112

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Houston, Texas

cret to make it more difficult for the Communists to infiltrate."

"The small groups of "friends" hold their meetings and work under a Houston area co-ordinator, Akard Beal, 67 2576 N. MacGregor, she said.

Mrs. Goldston told The Press meetings are devoted to issues reported in the society's bulletin and discussion of their work.

Work, she said, included letters to congressmen and newspapers.

Mrs. Goldston added:

"We write for and against legislation in Congress and the state Legislature."

Mrs. Goldston said she thought the organization had accomplished a great deal through its work. She said:

"I know, for instance, several bills in Congress we supported went through. Some we were against didn't go through."

Asked if she thought the society had enough members throughout the country to affect legislation in Congress directly, she said:

"I don't know how many members we have, but I understand the society is active in all but about four states.

"I think we have the power to influence legislation."

Although Mrs. Goldston doesn't know Robert Welch, the society's founder, she said her late husband went to school with him at the University of South Carolina. She concluded:

"I think his objectives are the same as ours.

"I think he's a patriotic American or I wouldn't have joined the group."

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbeck
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

INT. SEC.

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS
DATE 3-23-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Demands Probe, Would 'Gladly Testify'

Birch Group 'Calls' Gov. Brown on Quiz

Officials of the John Birch Society joined today in demands for investigation of their patriotic organization, and told Governor Edmund G. Brown their members would "gladly testify" without resort to the Fifth Amendment.

In a telegram to the governor, Robert Welch, wealthy retired candy manufacturer who is founder and head of the patriotic group said:

"We respectfully and, in view of statements made to the press by officials of your state, urgently demand the proposed investigation of the John Birch Society by the California State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities.

"A dozen, or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment. We will gladly co-operate with the committee in every way we can."

COPY SENT TO MOSK

Copies of the wire were sent to Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk and to State Sen. Hugh Burns of Fresno, Senate president pro-tem and chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Paul H. Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker and a member of the John Birch Society, commented on Mosk's statement that he would ask the United States attorney general to "look into" the patriotic organization if the Legislature "wants me to do it."

Talbert said that "if any members take the Fifth Amendment, it will be all right because we would love to find out who the infiltrators are so we can get rid of them."

He explained that it was "possible some left wing sympathizers may have infiltrated" the society and "their refuge in the Fifth Amendment would, of course, unmask them," adding:

"We, the John Birch Society, will not picket any investigating committee that might see fit to investigate us.

"All this points up the fact that good Americans everywhere should wake up. This goes to prove how deadly our enemy is—to be able to pull off this concentrated national attack on the John Birch Society."

BELIEFS STATED

The Beverly Hills civic leaded pointed out the society "believes in less government, more responsibility, more individual freedom and preservation and protection of our

John Birch Society
LA. 100-5900!

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constitution and our glorious heritage."

Furthermore, he said, "I believe in loyalty oaths, preservation of the Connally Amendment, restoration of the investigative powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other government committee for the investigation of subversion."

"Is it possible that we have been so deeply infiltrated that our enemy is now strong enough to try to shift the word 'subversion' from themselves over to us?" Talbert asked.

PROTEST BROWN'S ACTION

Talbert was the latest to add his voice to a growing wave of protest over Governor Brown's refusal to ban a University of California at Berkeley speech by a man accused of Communist front activity while calling for a probe of the John Birchers, described by United States Senator James Eastland of Mississippi as "a patriotic organization."

The protests point out the drive by California Democratic Council and others to abolish loyalty oaths, the House Committee on Un-American Activities and to secure early recognition and admission to the United Nations of Red China.

County Republican Chairman Julius A. (Jud) Leetham pointed out that storm is not a partisan dispute, but added:

"It should be a subject for thoughtful contemplation that the Democratic Party, and particularly its leader in California, Governor Brown, has been in the forefront to attack either individuals or organizations whose 'conservative' views are fundamentally cast in support of our existing order.

CITES EXAMPLE

"A new example of this is the hue and cry regarding the John Birch Society, which one United States senator has described as a patriotic organization.

"Democratic, and some other cries, for investigation fill the land.

"On the other hand, we see the tragically humorous example of Governor Brown refusing to utilize his executive authority to prevent the propaganda effort of a convicted and known associate in subversive organizations from conducting propaganda meetings and directed toward undermining our [illegible] on state property (the UCB campus) supported in part by funds extracted from the citizens, including the so-called conservatives."

Mr. Tolson
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Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
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Mr. [illegible]
Mr. W. C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Candy

Promises 'No Fifth-Amendments'

John Birch Society Demands It Be Probed

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., March 23.—(UPI)—The founder of the John Birch Society today not only would welcome but "demands" an investigation of the ultra-conservative group.

Robert Welch, in a telegram to Gov. Edmund C. Brown, promised none of the members of the nationwide group whose avowed purpose is to fight Communism would take the Fifth Amendment to avoid testifying.

Welch said the society urgently demanded the California State Senate Un-American Activities Committee make the investigation. (The committee, however, said it had no plans presently for such a probe.)

Welch's telegram came yesterday after a recent flood of criticism had been leveled against the group climaxed in Gov. Brown's order Tuesday for the State Attorney General to make a report of the society.

Welch's Telegram

Welch, founder and president of the group, sent from his home in Belmont, Mass., the following telegram:

"We respectfully and, in view of statements made to press by officials of your state, we urgently demand the proposed investigation of the John Birch Society by the California State Senate UN-American Activities Committee. A dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment. We will gladly cooperate with the committee in every way that we can."

The telegram was addressed to Gov. Brown in the State Capitol at Sacramento and copies also were released to State Attorney General Stanley Mosk, Sen. Hugh M. Burns, chairman of the State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities, and to Paul H. Talbert, a member of the Birch Society's National Council.

Cites Aims

Talbert, a Beverly Hills insurance broker, made a copy of the telegram available to UPI along with a prepared statement of his own.

Talbert's statement said any member of the society who would refuse to testify before an investigating committee would be expelled. Said the statement in part:

"The John Birch society believes in less government, more responsibility, more individual freedom preserving and protecting our Constitution and our glorious heritage.

". . . What is happening to cause supposedly reputable newspapers to refer to us as Fascists, Neo-Fascists, Silver Shirts, red shirts, black shirts, subversives, and even to compare us with the Ku Klux Klan?

"Who is responsible for leading this attack and who is keeping it alive?

"I will close with the words of J. Edgar Hoover: 'We are at war. We are infiltrated. We are losing.' . . .

Sen. Burns of Fresno, the Un-American Activities Committee chairman, said his group had the society under surveillance for several weeks but no irregularities had been discovered.

The society was openly criticized in the California Assembly yesterday in a resolution introduced by Assemblyman John A. O'Connell, D., San Francisco.

The resolution specifically referred to a document written by Welch in which he called former President Eisenhower "a dedicated Communist agent."

The final clause of the resolution said:

"Resolved, that the members (of the assembly) denounce the divisive, coercive and un-American activities employed by the John Birch Society and its adherents."

The resolution was referred to the committee on rules for a later hearing.

Object to Methods

The society also was believed to be subject of a strong denunciation voiced Tuesday night by Chancellor Samuel B. Gould of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

He warned at a charter day banquet that a "new type" of secret student organization had been set up on the campus which "unless it is checked, can destroy the university." He said:

"It claims to promote Americanism while it uses thoroughly un-American methods."

Although Gould was unavailable for further comment, one university official who asked not to be identified said it was his understanding Gould was referring to the John Birch Society.

THE HOUSTON PRESS
3-23-61
Houston, Texas
RE: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(HOfile: 62-1521)
HOUSTON DIVISION

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John Birch Society

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File
62-104401

REC-87

UPI-144
(BIRCH SOCIETY)

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.--THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SAID TODAY HE WOULD CALL HEARINGS NEXT SUMMER TO INVESTIGATE THE RIGHT-WING JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

SEN. HUGH M. BURNS, D-FRESNO, SAID IN A WIRE TO ROBERT WELCH, THE FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY, THAT "THE COMMITTEE WILL BE GLAD TO SCHEDULE A HEARING AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE-SESSION AT WHICH TIME HE (WELCH) WILL BE INVITED TO APPEAR.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO EMBARK ON AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION," BURNS SAID. "IT WOULD HAVE A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON OUR LEGISLATIVE DUTIES."

WELCH DEMANDED LAST NIGHT, IN A TELEGRAM TO GOV. EDMUND G. BROWN, THAT THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATE HIS GROUP. "WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT, UNLIKE OUR COMMUNIST ENEMIES, NONE OF OUR MEMBERS WILL TAKE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT," WELCH SAID.

"THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE SOCIETY IS OR COULD BECOME SUBVERSIVE," BURNS SAID. "OUR INVESTIGATION HAS NOT PROGRESSED TO THE STAGE WHERE A CONCLUSIVE JUDGMENT ON THIS SUBJECT COULD BE MADE."

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UPI-265

ADD BIRCH, SACRAMENTO (UPI-146)

IN BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF., PAUL H. TALBERT, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION TODAY OVER AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES WILL NOT START AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RIGHT-WING GROUP UNTIL SUMMER.

"NEXT SUMMER!" TALBERT EXCLAIMED, "WHY NOT NOW? IF THE DANGER FROM OUR SOCIETY IS SO IMMINENT AS SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID, WHY NOT START THE SENATE HEARING NOW? WE WANT A CHANCE TO STATE OUR VIEWS NOW. WHY NOT HOLD THE HEARING IN THE COOL OF THE SPRING?"

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UPI-274
(BIRCH)

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.--CHANCELLOR SAMUEL B. GOULD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA SAID LAST NIGHT A "NEW TYPE" SECRET STUDENT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN SET UP ON THE CAMPUS AND "UNLESS IT IS CHECKED, CAN DESTROY THE UNIVERSITY."

GOULD, SPEAKING AT A CHARTER DAY BANQUET IN SUBURBAN MONTECITO, DID NOT GIVE THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION BUT SAID IT IS "CONTROLLED AND AFFILIATED FROM THE OUTSIDE."

"IT CLAIMS TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM," HE SAID, "WHILE IT USES THOROUGHLY UN-AMERICAN METHODS."

ONE UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL WHO ASKED THAT HIS NAME BE WITHHELD SAID TODAY THAT "IT WAS UNDERSTOOD" GOULD WAS REFERRING TO THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY WHICH HAS AN OFFICE HERE.

GOULD SAID THE ORGANIZATION HE REFERRED TO "KEEPS ITS REAL ORIGINS SECRET" AND ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO BECOME INFORMERS AND "TAKE ON THE TASKS OF SECURITY AGENCIES."

THE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION OFFICE DISCLOSED THAT ROBERT WELCH, HEAD OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, HAD BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK ON THE CAMPUS BUT TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION.

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UPI-285

ADD BIRCH, SANTA BARBARA (UPI-274)

IN BEVERLY HILLS--ROBERT WELCH, FOUNDER OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, SAID TODAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT WING GROUP WILL "GLADLY" TESTIFY IN A PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF THE ORGANIZATION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES.

WELCH "DEMANDED" THAT THE INVESTIGATION BE HELD AND PROMISED THAT NO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO AVOID TESTIFYING.

A TELEGRAM FROM WELCH, ADDRESSED TO GOV. EDMUND G. BROWN, WAS RELEASED HERE BY PAUL H. TALBERT, MEMBER OF THE BIRCH SOCIETY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL.

3/22--N1052PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

4-572 (Rev. 2-19-60)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: MARCH 21, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages 4017-4023. Senator Young, (R) North Dakota, spoke concerning material he had included in previous Records in connection with the John Birch Society. Mr. Young pointed out that the Los Angeles Times and the Santa Barbara (California) News-Press had made an investigation of this society. Mr. Young included the articles and editorials from these newspapers. Included was an article from the Los Angeles Times of March 7, 1961, entitled "Birch Program in Los Angeles Outlined--Thousands Reportedly Belong to Chapters in Southland." The article quotes Paul H. Talbert, a council member from southern California, regarding the riots in San Francisco during hearings by the House Un-American Activities Committee. The article stated "He said the FBI has developed incontrovertible proof the riot was inspired, directed, and participated in by known Communists." The article goes on to state "In line with Welch's Blue Book instructions, the society is working to broaden the audience of such commentators as Manion, Dan Smoot and, locally, Ed Delaney. Smoot, a former FBI agent with headquarters in Dallas, also publishes weekly reports which are circulated by society members in support of the rightwing viewpoints." The article points out that Robert Welch is the founder of the John Birch Society. Mr. Young also included a letter from Mr. Robert D. Love, a Wichita, Kansas, businessman, to Mrs. George Angle, in which Mr. Love outlined his views as a member of the John Birch Society. Mr. Love stated "I have known Mr. Robert Welch for 8 years. I have more confidence in his knowledge and ability than any man in the United States, with the exception of J. Edgar Hoover. Of course, Mr. Hoover is not available for consultation." Howard D. Smoot was employed with the Bureau as an Agent from March 23, 1942, to June 15, 1951. Shortly before Smoot's resignation, he was censured, placed on probation and transferred due to several unfounded charges against his SAC. His attitude before and after resignation was extremely antagonistic, and he was not recommended for reinstatement. He is the author of the "Dan Smoot Report" a weekly publication which deals with highly controversial topics. By SAC Letter dated March 24, 1959, it is noted that inquiries as to his former employment in this Bureau should be handled in a most circumspect manner and should be answered by merely giving the dates of his employment and no additional comment should be made.

Original filed in: 62-104401-A

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for MARCH 20, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

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File 62-104401

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UPI-213
(BIRCH)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE IS ANSWERING QUERIES ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, SEMI-SECRET ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, BY DESCRIBING IT AS APPARENTLY "A PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION," IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S EVALUATION IS BEING SENT OUT IN A FORM LETTER OVE THE SIGNATURE OF CHAIRMAN JAMES O. EASTLAND, D-MISS., WHICH READS:

"THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, ABOUT WHICH YOU ASKED IS KNOWN TO BE A CONSERVATIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION. WE ARE HAPPY TO STATE THAT IT SEEMS TO BE, FROM OUR RECORDS, A PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION."

MEANWIME, SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D., ARDSE IN THE SENATE FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS TO INSERT INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD NEWSPAPER STORIES ABOUT THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES AND EDITORIALS CRITICIZING IT.

YOUNG SAID HE WAS SORRY HE REFERRED TO LOCAL UNITS OF THE ORGANIZATION AS "CELLS" IN HIS FIRST SPEECH MARCH 8. BUT HE SAID "THIS IE ONE OF THE PROBLEMS ONE ENCOUNTERS WITH AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN A SECRET MANNER."

YOUNG ALSO INSERTED A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF A NOV. 1 LETTER FROM ROBERT D. LOVE, WICHITA, KAN., REPUBLICAN BUSINESSMAN, TO MRS. GEORGE ANGLE OF WICHITA DISCUSSING THE SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES.

"SOME DAY THERE WILL BE A GOOD MANY PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TRIED FOR TREASON--IF WE STILL HAVE COURTS BY THAT TIME," LOVE SAID. "THE SUPREME COURT HAS RIDDLED OUR INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS TO THE POINT THAT YOU CANNOT CONVICT A MAN OF BEING A COMMUNIST. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Birch Society Loudly Praised

Mr. Editor:

Thank you so much for the fine article on Anti-Communism Groups in Abilene appearing in Friday afternoon's paper and written by your very good reporter Dick Tarpley.

It is a public service on the part of your paper to carry this information on these fine groups of American Patriots working to the best of their abilities to preserve our American freedom. I commend you on this wide publicity given these groups and say a sincere thank you for the many new members I'm sure we shall gain. As for the six separate groups listed. May their tribe increase.

I have gained the idea that the National Council of Churches is heavily infiltrated. This idea was formed from following carefully the decisions and publications of their last joint meeting in California a few months back. However, all of the articles I read were carried in the Abilene Reporter-News.

I have seen the 3½ hour film presentation by Robert Welch of the John Birch Society. It is most interesting. I must agree with some of those you interviewed that I, too, was not keenly impressed with the society as presented by the area coordinator locally. However, I bought and read the books and did further research. And I found I believed in the same things in which Mr. Welch believes: AN AMERICA FOR AMERICANS.

I find Mr. C. G. Whitten's statement rather amusing when he says: "It is hard for me to understand how a well - educated and well - read person living in this country today could embrace such a program. I predict that the responsible conservative element in our community will reject it totally." This statement grows doubly amusing when to the list of those well - read and well-learned local citizens, I add the names of Tom Anderson, Editor and Publisher of Farm and Ranch; Dean Clarence Manion, Former Dean of Notre Dame; Hon. M. T. Phelps, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona; N. Floyd McGowin, President, W. T. Smith Lumber Co., Alabama; Cola G. Parker, President of the Kimberley - Clark Company; T. Coleman Andrews, Former Commissioner of Internal Revenue of the U.S.; Dr. N. E. Adamson Jr., a Boston surgeon; Hon. Spruille Braden, former Ambassador to several countries and former Assistant Secetary of State; Col. Laurence E. Bunker, former Personal Aide to General MacArthur; S. J. Conner, Chicago business man; Fred C. Koch, president, Rock Island Oil and Refining Company, and many, many others which room will not permit the listing.

"The Abilene Reporter News"
Abilene, Texas

March 20, 1961

Ed Wishcamper, Editor
Submitted by Dallas Office

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And knowing the works and contributions to society of these fellow Americans, I would say to Mr. Whitten that I am persuaded that the brains and the patriotism is all on the side of the John Birch members and I should like to become one of them.

Mr. Whitten also mentioned Christianity in his statement to which I must answer: I believe the John Birch members have won on that count, too.

I really believe the truth of the matter is that Abilene has been "shook to its roots" by a handful of citizens taking a firm stand as Christians and true American citizens.

Sincerely,
MRS. J. L. GUFFEY,
2732 Beech St.,
Abilene

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

Birch Society Formula: 'Drastic, United Action'

"The Abilene Reporter News"
Abilene, Texas
March 19, 1961
Ed Vielhauer, Editor
Submitted by Dallas Office

By DICK TARPLEY
Reporter-News News Editor

(Another in a Series.)

Who was John Birch? How was the John Birch Society formed? And what does its founder hope to do about halting the advance of communism and bringing about a more conservative United States government?

Some of this information reached national prominence in a Time Magazine article March 10 about the society's founder, Robert Welch, who resigned as an executive of his brother's candy-making firm to devote fulltime to his project.

Greatest reaction to the Time article came from its discussion of "The Politician," a book which Time called Welch's "Mein Kampf." The book, shown originally only to close friends, has been withdrawn from circulation because of violent reaction to Welch's judgments on contemporary leaders, according to Time.

For instance, both the Milwaukee Journal and Boston Herald printed stories purportedly quoting from page 268 of the book in which Welch is quoted expressing extreme opinions questioning the loyalty of President Eisenhower and his brother, Milton.

Time Story 'Biased'

Abilene members of the Birch Society contacted by the Reporter-News said they had not seen the book. Generally they tended to discount the Time Magazine report as biased, or slanted.

In his "Blue Book," which may be purchased by writing the society at Belmont 78, Mass., Welch recounts the two-day organization meeting of the society at Indianapolis in December, 1958.

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Welch said he met with 11 men—two each from Wisconsin and Massachusetts and one each from Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee and Virginia. He spent two days going over his reasons for recommending formation of the John Birch Society, and a year later, he reported that there were working chapters in 16 states—New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Louisiana, Texas, California and Washington — and Home Chapter members in about 40 states.

Prominent among its Council are physicians, industrialists, retired military men, writers and an oilman, as well as actor Adolphe Menjou, attorney and former Notre Dame law school dean Clarence Manion, former ambassador and assistant Secretary of State Spruille Braden, former Internal Revenue Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews, and retired Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III who succeeded Gen. Claire Chennault as commander of the 14th Air Force.

Named for Missionary

The society was named for John Birch, "a Christian missionary in China at the beginning of World War II, (who) organized Gen. Chennault's intelligence service, rose to the rank of Captain in the U. S. Army, served with distinction, and 10 days after V-J day, while in uniform, on a peaceful mission for his government, was brutally murdered by Chinese Communists.

"Few people recognized the name, because the Communists had planned it that way. It required five years of persistent effort by his parents, aided by Sen. William F. Knowland and other patriots, to pierce the blanket of oblivion brazenly obscuring the facts thrown over the affair by Red sympathizers in our government."

The Saturday Evening Post, in an editorial Jan. 22, 1955, said: "Amazingly, there were in Washington responsible officials who were willing to suppress news of the murder of an American officer, apparently to prevent the American people from rising up in their wrath and vetoing further appeasement of communism."

Welch said he realized the necessity for drastic, united action to combat Communism as he noticed the development of the strategy announced by Lenin before he died in 1924. Welch paraphrased the Lenin plan in this way:

"First, we will take Eastern Europe. Next, the masses of Asia. Then we shall encircle that last bastion of capitalism, the United States of America. We shall not have to attack; it will fall like overripe fruit into our hands." Welch said the strategy also stated that "for the Communists, the road to Paris led through Peking and Calcutta. Today you can easily see how that road to Paris is leading back from Peking through Calcutta, Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, and Algiers."

Welch in Control

Welch is in absolute control of the John Birch Society, and he stressed that dictatorial control was necessary for the society to succeed. He pointed out that he had wholeheartedly backed Sen. Robert Taft even though he disagreed with three of the ten points in Taft's platform. He did not combat those three points, he said, because he felt this would have divided the effort at the overall goal and might have helped defeat Taft in his bid for the presidency.

Members of the society are encouraged to write in suggestions, but Welch makes the decisons and if a person feels he cannot abide by those decisions he is asked to leave the society.

Welch outlined 10 methods in his "Blue Book" by which the society hopes to achieve its purposes:

1. Establish reading rooms and encourage people to read anti-communist, right wing government books.

2. Circulate conservative periodicals, including "American Opinion," which Welch himself edits. Arrange to get "National Review" in every college library in the U.S. and the "Dan Smoot Report" in doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms.

3. Support, maintain and encourage listening to right wing broadcasters such as Fulton Lewis Jr., and Clarence Manion.

4. Make full and effectively-coordinated use of "the powerful letter-writing weapon that lies so ready at hand." Welch said the "Communists boast they can now land 40,000 individually written letters in Washington, on either side of any subject, within 72 hours." Welch stressed that the letter writing must be "definitely planned, ORDERED, and the amount and promptness of participation constantly checked and evaluated by a central headquarters or director."

Shock the People

5. Organize fronts — "little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kind of fronts." They should be aimed "to accomplish, or at least publicize, one particular purpose." The most active front so far established by Welch is the "Petition to Impeach Earl Warren."

6. "Start shocking the American People....into a realization of what is happening." Welch lauds the work of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy along those lines. Ferreting out information to expose high-placed individuals as Communists is one means advocated.

7. Place society members in the audience to ask pointed questions of people who make speeches to civic, church, P-TA and other groups who vary their line to appeal to each different group in different localities. Welch says many such Communist "agents provocateur" roam the country making such speeches to tear

See BIRCH, Page 3B, Col. 2

down the capitalist system and gain backing for projects by appealing to special interests.

8. Line up speakers all over the country to speak to similar small audiences—"not on Communism or anti-Communism in general, but on specific subjects which could still carry a strong anti-Communist message."

9. Start extending "our body into other countries, as soon as there (are) energy and resources which could properly be spared for that purpose." Welch stressed that the society is a body "(such as the Catholic Church or Communist Party), and not an organization (such as the Republican Party).

10. "Put our weight into the political scales in this country just as fast and far as we could." Welch emphasized Barry Goldwater was the type of man needed to be President, and also praised William Knowland of California. He expressed little favor for Richard Nixon (and his "Blue Book" was written over two years ago), and he strongly opposed Nelson Rockefeller. He declared that "I don't think Nixon is committed to anything other than the career of Richard Nixon."

Welch said the 10 points are only a partial list and that other ideas would be tried. He expressed the feeling that the Communist menace could be halted and that America could win out, but he indicated that the John Birch Society is the main hope for achieving this. (Monday evening: Christian Anti-Communism Educational League of Abilene.)

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Nixon Scores Birch-Style Fight on Reds

A-8

LOS ANGELES, March 18 (AP)—Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon says he opposes the political techniques of the John Birch Society.

In a letter to the Los Angeles Times yesterday, Nixon endorsed the newspaper's editorial stand against the society and added:

"One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably find the means become the end."

The Times printed two pages of pro and con letters of reaction to its front-page editorial March 12 by publisher Otis Chandler. The Times criticized what it termed the Society's methods "to fight Communists in Communist fashion."

The editorial described the Society's leader, Robert Welch, as the group's "absolute master." The Times said quotations from Welch and supporters "nail down the treacherous fallacy that an honorable or noble objective justifies any means to achieve it."

Reached at his home in Belmont, Mass., Welch said he had not yet seen Nixon's comments, but said he had no comment anyway.

Agreeing with the newspaper, Nixon added in his letter:

"It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality. But, in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism."

The Society is named after an American priest executed as a spy a few years ago by the Red Chinese. The Society, which says it seeks to stop the spread of communism, has attracted some adherents of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-

The Washington Post and Times Herald A-8
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
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Nixon Assails Birch Society

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 18 (AP).—Former Vice President Nixon, in a letter to the Los Angeles Times, has indorsed the newspaper's editorial stand against political techniques advocated by the John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization.

Mr. Nixon wrote in part:

"I can well understand how many well-intentioned people, who are justifiably concerned about the threat which subversive groups present to our free institutions, tend to reach the conclusion that the only effective way to fight such organizations is to use the same evil methods they employ. . . .

"But there could be no more dangerous fallacy. One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably finds the means become the end."

The Times, in a front-page editorial March 12, said, "Every loyal American must agree devoutly with the (John Birch) society's immediate intention of 'stopping the Communists and destroying their conspiracy, or at least breaking its grip on our government and shattering its power within the United States.'"

But, the Times said, it could not go along with methods of the society . . . "to fight Communists in Communist fashion."

The editorial described Robert Welch as the society's "absolute master" and said quotations from Mr. Welch and his lieutenants "nail down the treacherous fallacy that an honorable or noble objective justifies any means to achieve it."

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Birch Society Keeps Names Secret to Help Find Reds

By DICK TARPLEY
Reporter-News News Editor
(Second of a series)

"Somebody is feeling the effects of the John Birch Society," an Abilene member of the ultra-conservative, anti-communist organization surmised this week in explaining a recent Time Magazine article about the nationwide group.

Dr. J. A. Wolfe, a chiropractor, said the society's local organizations are not called "cells," however, as the Time article reported, but are "chapters."

Oilman Frank J. King, who paid his dues as a member of the Home Chapter of the Society but says he does not belong to a local chapter (and didn't even know any were organized here as chapters), was not fazed by the Time article.

Fear Power Plot

"My reaction was no different than it was to lots of things I read in Time Magazine," he grimaced. "My impression was that they (Time) were attacking him (national Birch Society Founder Joseph Wolfe of Massachusetts) because they fear he is seeking power personally. They fear the society was formed for the purpose of making him powerful." He added that he does not believe Welch is as much of a dictatorial rule in the Birch Society as Time asserted in its article.

Dr. James by Fox, physician, said he is a member (but not active in a chapter) of the John Birch Society, whose present national aim is the impeachment of Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Fox said he knows there is more than one chapter of the Birch group here, but he's not sure if more than two have been formed. And none of the local members contacted by The Reporter-News would estimate the number of members in Abilene.

Dr. Wolfe and Elvin Allen, a radio and television repairman, each reported his chapter meets once a month. Neither would disclose where meetings are held nor who the officers of the chapter or chapters are. They were interviewed separately and it was not known if they are even in the same chapter.

Inspired by Speech

Allen said he had been a member about a month, but that he joined after long thought which began when Actor Ronald Reagan made a stirring Abilene Chamber of Commerce speech in 1959 about the dangers of communism and socialism and the loss of individual freedoms in the United States. Both Allen and his wife are active. They live at 757 Elm St.

Allen said the Birch chapter does not have formal programs or speakers, but the group discusses issues and projects.

Why the secrecy?

There is no secrecy, local members said, except in the names of the members. Purposes, plans, etc. all may be obtained by writing the society at Belmont, Mass. In return, Welch will send his "Blue Boook" which outlines the reason the society was started, ways it can fight communism and socialism and big government, rules of the society which require members to resign if they decide they can't follow the decisions of retired candymaker Welch, and some of the plans for society action.

Ferret Out Communists

But names can't be generally released, Dr. Wolfe said. "To publicize our membership would destroy our ability to ferret out communists in our society."

Allen said if everyone "knew of our activities," the enemy (communists and their supporters) would "work against us."

Fox said it is up to each in-

"The Abilene Reporter News"
Abilene, Texas
March 18, 1961
Ed Winhemper, Editor
Submitted by Dallas Office

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dividual as to whether he objected to it being known that he was a member of the society. Fox and Allen each agreed to call their chapter president and ask him if he objected to his position being known and, if not, to have him call the reporter. But no call was forthcoming and the names of chapter presidents or other officials here are still a secret.

Allen said that following the Ronald Reagan speech, he began to read patriotic and conservative material, listened to "Life Line," the conservative, anti-big government, anti-communist radio program with Wayne Poucher and a radio minister, and finally heard about the John Birch Society.

He said he made inquiries, got the "Blue Book" from Welch and decided a month ago to join. Society dues are $12 a year for women and $24 a year for men, with the society sending a bulletin each month about society activities, letters, etc.

"I wouldn't belong to anything I thought was bad," Allen said.

Much Reading

He said that before the Reagan speech, he used to read just the comics and sports pages. Now he said he stays up until midnight reading anti-communist books, material on "returning to the Constitution" and elimination of excessive government.

Allen stressed that he and his wife are against anything that is against the Constitution.

He said a member does not have to write a letter or participate unless he wants to.

Allen has written two letters to the Reporter-News urging impeachment of Earl Warren, the first of which was printed. This is based on his leadership of the Supreme Court during the past eight years and his vote 36 out of 39 times (according to material supplied in a Welch publication) in support of the liberal side in matters involving communism, or greater federal government control.

Allen said the Birch society uses only constitutional means in seeking to achieve its goals—primarily writing congressmen.

While Allen has been a member only a month, King got his start in the society last summer when he called a group of friends together at Foremost Dairies Auditorium to see the lengthy (3 1-2 hour) film in which Welch gives a series of speeches along the same lines as his "Blue Book."

King disagreed with a Time Magazine charge that "the society accepts the hard-boiled, dictatorial direction of one man."

"While it's inherent in every man to want power and influence," King said, "I don't think there's any desire on his (Welch's) part to become a dictator of these United States. I haven't had such an impression and neither have any people in the Society (from Dallas) with whom I've talked."

Film Shown

King said he did not know any members of the society in Abilene, that he first learned of its existence when talking with friends in Dallas. As a result of these talks, he later was contacted by Buck Mann of Odessa, area coordinator for the John Birch Society. Thus the film was arranged and shown here. No chapter was formed as a result of that meeting, however, King said.

Robert J. Tiffany, insurance executive, who said he attended this recruiting meeting, reported that he arrived late after returning from Dallas, saw only about two hours of the film and personally objected to the recruiter's pressure that a society be formed. He said the recruiter (Tiffany thought he was from Dallas) said each member of the society was required to send letters "when we tell you to." Tiffany said he wanted to be his own judge as to when to write letters and as to what stand he wanted to take.

"I made a motion that the society not be formed at that time," Tiffany added. He said he bought $2 worth of books the recruiter had for sale (others also bought the books) and left the meeting. He said he's heard nothing more about the society and has made no further inquiries about it.

Declined to Join

Attorney C. G. Whitten said he also attended the meeting and declined to join, although he bought some literature.

"Based on my limited experience with the John Birch Society," Whitten said, "it would appear to me that the organization is one that uses totalitarian methods to accomplish its ends, and that the program of the society itself is based upon an abounding ignorance of our American heritage of civil liberties and freedom of thought, and totally lacking in the Christian attitude of charity toward the disadvantaged and weak.

"It is hard for me to understand how a well-educated and well-read person living in this country today could embrace such a program. I predict that the responsible conservative element in our community will reject it totally."

TOMORROW: How Robert Welch started the Birch Society, his philosophy and goals.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Delaney
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Tamm
Mr. W. C. Sullivan
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

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Mabley's Report

How Jack Lifted Lid on Hate Society

BY JACK MABLEY

The public exposure of the John Birch society, a national anti-communist, anti-democracy organization, began with a phone call to this columnist last July.

JACK MABLEY

The exposure was climaxed last Wednesday in the United States Senate when Sen. Young of North Dakota denounced the organization, and put into the Congressional Record this reporter's original exposure.

The call in July was from a man who had been persuaded to attend a meeting of a suburban "cell." He had stood up in the meeting and asked about a book written by the society's leader, Robert Welch, of Boston.

In the book, Welch charged that President Eisenhower and most of the top officials around him were Communists. He described Eisenhower's action as "treason."

• • •

THE MAN WHO stood up was derided and scorned. He was told he had no business seeing the book, that for anyone other than a leader of the society to have the book was "like telling a first year medical student to go out and cure cancer."

I conducted an investigation of this secret society. It was ascertained that Welch was a fanatical retired Boston candy manufacturer.

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DIAMOND FINAL Edition
Date MAR 13 1961
Chicago, Illinois
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Part —
Editor LUKE P. CARROLL
CHICAGO OFFICE

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He was so persuasive that he talked three former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers into serving on the society's board.

I wrote two articles which were published, not by coincidence, on the opening days of the Republican national convention, when most of the nation's conservative leaders were in Chicago. I was then working for the Daily News.

• • •

IMMEDIATELY ALL copies of Welch's book, titled "The Politician," were taken out of circulation.

When questioned, Welch insisted that if it existed, it was merely a long letter to friends. He neglected to note this long letter had a title, was printed, had hard covers, and was 302 pages long. Some letter.

The Milwaukee Journal, with help from this reporter, was next to print an exposure of the Birch group. The publicity, however, did not stop its growth.

It thrived in the west and southwest. It was in these areas that attacks on responsible leaders were most vicious and harmful. To oppose the society was to invite smearing as a "Communist."

• • •

THE SOCIETY WAS condemned almost without exception by newspapers in the west and southwest. The fight attracted nationwide attention. The sordid story of Welch and the growth of his group was detailed last week in Time magazine.

Sen. Young, in putting into the Congressional Record the column of July 26, told the Senate:

"I hesitated to give further publicity to this dastardly attack [on the President].

"It is unbelievable that any sane person would make such accusations against President Eisenhower, who has devoted his life to the service of this country and who led all of the allied forces in the European theater during World War II.

"The only reason why I am reluctantly giving publicity to the vicious charges made by the leaders of this society is that I believe it will serve to give needed information to people in my state and elsewhere who may be influenced by this organization."

It must now be determined whether further exposure is necessary, or whether the society will sink to the oblivion it deserves.

[Mabley is on WBBM at 8 week nights].

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

Lists Two Rhode Island Backers

Birch Society a National Irritant

By LEWIS W. WOLFSON

Richard Cardinal Cushing, Catholic Archbishop of Boston, confirmed today that he had written a letter endorsing the John Birch Society, an extreme right wing group, but said he intended to look into the society's operation further.

The letter was reproduced in a booklet issued by the society, based in Belmont, Mass.

The society's agitation for causes on the extreme right has begun to be felt throughout the country, causing considerable discussion of its operation and investigation of its strength.

Two Rhode Islanders, Robert B. Dresser, of Providence and Norman D. MacLeod of Kenyon, who are listed on the Committee of Endorsers, today confirmed that they are backers.

The Birch Society was denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate last week by Sen. Milton R. Young, a notably conservative North Dakota Republican. He was joined in the denunciation by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont.

Cardinal Cushing told the Journal-Bulletin this morning that he had only met Robert H. W. Welch Jr., the society's founder, "once or twice a few years ago" and "didn't know anything about his society."

He said that he was impressed with Mr. Welch's anti-communist attitude and endorsed the society "as part of his program. I thought it undoubtedly reflected his own anti-communist attitude and thinking."

The Cardinal added that "if he's going to be attacking people, I'm just going to withdraw my name."

Cardinal Cushing said he felt that any stir that might be raised about his letter was "a lot of nonsense." He thought that the society might well be "one of those things that have gone to the extreme right just as some go to the extreme left."

He said he would look into it after he returns from a projected trip to Ireland.

The letter is reproduced in one of the latest of the society's publications, a compilation of its supporters and endorses with a statement of aims, which was shown to the Journal-Bulletin last night.

It was dated April 28, 1960, and addressed to a Mr. C. M. Crawford, Los Angeles, Calif. It read:

"Dear Mr. Crawford:

"Replying to your recent letter, I beg to advise you that I do not know of any more dedicated anti-communist in the country than Robert Welch.

"I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society.

"Under separate cover I am sending you some literature that may be of interest to you."

Mr. Dresser reached by telephone in Sarasota, Fla. said

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Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

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___ Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
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___ Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.
___ Daily Record, Boston, Mass.
X The Evening Bulletin, Providence, R.

Date: 3-13-61
Edition: PM
Author:
Editor: Sevellon Brown, III
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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Birch Society a National Irritant

Continued from Page One

that he is an endorser of the society but refused to make any further comment.

Mr. MacLeod said he had been a member of the society since it started. "I have known Bob Welch a great many years. He and I had often talked about communism and subversion." He said that "eventually he (Mr. Welch) thought up this plan" to fight communism.

He said that there are two or three persons in Rhode Island in the "Home Chapter," the group's members-by-mail unit. He said he had talked with Mr. Dresser about the Birch Society.

He thought the society had tried to start a "cell" in the state "some little time ago but I don't know what came of it."

He has not been asked directly to do any particular work for the society but "they would like me to do what I've been doing for quite a while."

Founded in 1958

The John Birch Society was founded in December, 1958, by Mr. Welch, retired executive of the James O. Welch Candy Company in Cambridge.

In the two years since, Mr. Welch has privately published two major tracts outlining a militant anti-communist movement; claimed the organization of cells in 34 states; built the membership to a figure variously estimated between 100,000 and 200,000 persons; launched a campaign to propagandize, and to influence teaching methods and the choice and writing of textbooks, and energized various causes such as those to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court, abolish foreign aid, denounce NATO and summit meetings—particularly through front groups.

In his manifesto, "The Politician," which he claims is not necessarily a bible for the Birch Society, Mr. Welch dropped a couple of bombshells that in recent weeks have exploded into the headlines: He has labeled as Communist agents, former President Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, the late John Foster Dulles, and his brother, Allen, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Milton Eisenhower is supposed to be his brother's "superior and boss within the Communist Party" and "treason" is cited as the only word for the former president's "purposes and actions."

FDR, Truman Named

Also, either "knowingly" or "unknowingly" used by the Communists were former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

"The Politician" and the "Blue Book," a handbook for society members, have gradually leaked out to the press, in addition to Welch bulletins to chapters and his longtime monthly "American Opinion."

Mr. Dresser, an attorney who has been associated with the National Economic Council, the Committee for Constitutional Government and other ultra right wing groups, led the successful fight against fair housing legislation in Rhode Island. Recently, he has campaigned in support of the work of the House committee on un-American activities which has come under fire.

Mr. MacLeod also was an opponent of fair housing bills.

Gordon D. Hall of Boston, a writer and lecturer, conducted a personal probe of right wing groups for 15 years, says he has no knowledge of any John Birch cells yet in operation in Rhode Island.

He told an audience at the First Unitarian Church, Providence, last night, that "to the best of my knowledge there are no organized hate groups in Providence or in any other large city in the state."

He praised Mr. Dresser for taking a stand and sticking by it, but noted that from his past writings, "the Dresser role here is very obvious."

Mr. Hall felt that Mr. Dresser "fails to distinguish between a really legitimate conservative cause and one that spills into the extremist areas."

Mr. Hall felt that the reason for the exposure of the John Birch movement is that it has begun to make itself felt all over the country, with its harassing of school officials, lectures, textbook writers and the like.

Although no "cells" apparently have been organized here, Mr. Welch in his latest pamphlet notes there are members of the "Home Chapter," or mail correspondents, in every state.

'Volunteer Coordinators'

He says that many members first come in through the Home Chapter and later are transferred to local chapters as they are formed. He said there are now "Volunteer Coordinators" in 30 states and they will be appointed in other states. The ultimate aim is a million members, "of fervent patriotism and unassailable character."

John Birch was a Navy captain who, while doing intelligence work in the Orient during World War II, became a missionary for his strong fundamentalist faith. He was killed in cold blood by the Chinese Communists a few days after the war ended.

Society dues are $24 a year for men, $12 for women and $1,000 for a life membership. The home office is at 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass.

The John Birch Society

Readers are well acquainted by now with the John Birch Society. The principles of the society, which describes itself as dedicated to combatting Communism, and of its founder, Robert Welch, who has accused such Americans as Dwight Eisenhower, Milton Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles and General George C. Marshall of being Communists, have been set forth in some detail in this newspaper. We have touched in a previous editorial on the kind of thinking organizations like this represent. Pros and cons on the subject have been extensively set forth in letters to the editor.

Members of the John Birch Society have characterized as lies and distortions factual reports concerning their organization that are based on direct quotations from their own publications. They claim their only purpose is to fight Communists and to promote conservatism—less government, more responsibility, a better world.

While few of us could quarrel with such aims, they do not, in themselves, sanctify the society. The German-American Bund was against Communism. So was Hitler. We don't seek to compare this group with any of this sorry lot, but it is pointed out to demonstrate again that to be against Communism does not necessarily give one an Olympian status. And we think there are ways to fight Communism and ways not to.

No one in his right mind can deny that the threat is real both internally and externally. A careful and thorough treatment of the internal threat has been given by J. Edgar Hoover in "Masters of Deceit," a book we commend to your attention. But the John Birchers, while they make this book a text of their own, don't seem to have absorbed some of Mr. Hoover's sound advice about witch hunts.

Says Mr. Hoover:

"Smears, character assassination, and the scattering of irresponsible charges have no place in this nation. They create division, suspicion, and distrust among loyal Americans—just what the Communists want—and hinder rather than aid the fight against Communism."

Such disruptive influence has been felt already in some neighboring communities. A disgraceful whispering campaign was directed against a number of candidates in a nearby school board election. There has been harassment by phone. One of the stated aims of the John Birch Society is to drive hundreds so-called pro-Communist speakers from the lecture platforms of the nation, by heckling and other pressure, to pave the way for their own "Americanist" speakers.

But Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, more or less set the pace for smearing and character assassination in his private bill of goods called "The Politician." Some John Birch leaders deny with some violence that they agree that the Eisenhower brothers, the Dulles brothers or Marshall were Communist traitors, while others seem to evade the issue. All seek to separate the John Birch Society from this book, however, and with a peculiar sense of logic.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
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INT. SEC.

"Independent Star-News"
Pasadena, Calif.
March 12, 1961
LEE MERRIMAN - Editor

Los Angeles Office

Re: John Birch Society

LA file 100-59001

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They point out that it was written years ago. It was started, in truth, in 1954, and supplemented up through 1958, the year the Society was formed, and printed by photo offset that year for distribution to Mr. Welch's friends and the leaders of the Society.

Mr. Welch, in his "Blue Book," says he has a nose for Communists. We will wonder, in view of these loony charges, just what kind of nose. We would think that the more responsible John Birch Society members who can't swallow these charges of high treason might wonder about Mr. Welch as an authority on anything else having to do with Communism.

We can't think, as a matter of fact, of anything the Communists themselves could enjoy more. The fear and hysteria created by the extremists of the John Birch group probably delight them. What better for them than to divide good Americans, to make neighbor view neighbor with suspicion? What better smoke screen for their own foul activities could they design?

We feel that the vast majority of John Birch members are decent, honest, patriotic Americans, but we feel they have been misled and carried away, by an admittedly dynamic and hypnotic leader, in their legitimate anxieties about our growing welfare state and the Communist conspiracy against us.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
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Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
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Peril to Conservatives

(An Editorial)

The Times published last week a heavily documented series of articles which defined the nature and methods of the John Birch Society in the words of its absolute master.

The quotations from Robert Welch, and from some of his lieutenants, nail down the treacherous fallacy that an honorable or noble objective justifies any means to achieve it.

Our fear of the John Birch Society is based on our own findings, on the meticulously researched articles written by Gene Blake. In them it can be read, within quotation marks, that Communists must be fought with their own weapons, smear for smear. Even—and the quotations are brutal—with sedition.

Every conservative must adhere to the general purpose of the society as it is stated by Robert Welch: "to promote less government, more responsibility and a better world."

Every loyal American must agree devoutly with the society's immediate intention of "stopping the Communists and destroying their conspiracy, or at least breaking its grip on our government and shattering its power within the United States."

And every informed American must agree with the society's tenet that the United States is actually now engaged with Soviet Russia in a struggle for the survival of our system.

With all honorable Americans, this newspaper looks with disgust and dread upon the godless materialism and blood-soaked tyranny of the Communist conspiracy. It is because of our people's disgust and dread that the Communists must seek their ends by secret subversion, by seducing officials, by discrediting our institutions, sowing distrust among us, aggravating union and racial disputes, entering without conscience into any course that will serve the purpose of Moscow.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 3-12-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Nick Williams
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

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Then what is likely to happen to the member of the John Birch Society who abandons all the rules by which he has lived his decent life, and adopts instead the techniques and the rules of conspiracy to fight Communists in Communist fashion?

If the John Birchers follow the program of their leader, they will bring our institutions into question exactly as the Communists try to do. They will sow distrust, and aggravate disputes, and they will weaken the very strong case for conservatism.

What are we to think when our last three Presidents, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, are accused either of being Communists or Communist dupes?

What are we to think when these charges are leveled against Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, against his brother Allen who heads our vital Central Intelligence Agency, against the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court?

What are we to think when the honor and integrity of the Vice President of the United States, the Republican Party's nominee for President, are questioned?

What are we to think when we are told that our nation's press almost without exception is Communist infiltrated and inspired?

What are we to think when we are told that our churches almost without exception are corroded with active agents of Moscow?

What is happening to us when all loyal Americans are accused of being Communist dupes unless they subscribe to the radical and dictatorial direction of one self-chosen man?

All sincere conservatives must ask themselves these questions. And they must answer them.

The Times believes implicitly in the conservative philosophy. It has challenged all these men and most of these institutions on the soundness of one or more issues. But The Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won—and we do believe it can be won—by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometimes disagree.

Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion.

OTIS CHANDLER,
Publisher, The Times.

0-19 (Rev. 2-13-61)

Editor denounces secret hate group

REC 22 EX-

LOS ANGELES

Fires are being kindled by believers in old-fashioned American democracy under the John Birch society and the "cells" of this semi-secret hate group which has gained a foothold in the Southland.

Biggest blast was leveled at the society recently in the News-Press of Santa Barbara, where the society seems to have made the greatest headway in this area. The News-Press took after the society in a front page editorial, a "statement of principles" and a foreword by Thomas M. Storke, editor of the paper.

Two of the inside editorial pages were taken up largely by a verbatim report of a sermon preached by John K. Crane, minister of the Santa Barbara Unitarian church, against the society.

What seems to have aroused Editor Storke, in the first instance, is a movement instigated by the founder of the society, Robert Welch, a retired Massachusetts candy manufacturer, to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren as a "traitor."

PRINCIPLES STATED

Aside from being a fellow Republican, Storke is said to have formed close personal association with the Chief Justice during the years he was Governor of California. But Storke's concern became more than one for the integrity of a personal friend.

This was made plain in the statement of principles, which declared:

- That democratic institutions can be endangered as much by the extremists of the right as those of the left.
- That Democracy can be strengthened only through open discussion of issues, in the spirit of the Constitution and Bill of Rights — that secret or semi-secret political organizations have no place in our society.
- That our democratic institutions are sound enough to withstand the give and take of open political discussion and examination of all ideological beliefs.
- That Democracy suffers when fear of Communism leads to irresponsible, unsubstantiated charges of treason or evil connivance against our political, religious, educational or cultural leaders.
- That traitors should be dealt with by the courts, not vigilante groups.

The editorial condemned "the dictatorial, undemocratic structure" of the John Birch society. It revealed Santa Barbarans who had the temerity to question the society's purposes had been subjected to anonymous telephone calls from members and sympathizers of the society.

Bible of the society is its "Blue Book," in which founder Welch announced a goal of 1 million members at a minimum of $24 a year for men and $12 a year for women and he was quoted as saying that "for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds."

Figuring that if men and women joined in equal numbers, Welch with 1 million members would have an $18-million kitty for his use, the News-Press added, "Quite a sum to play with without accountability."

THEORY CHALLENGED

In his sermon, Rev. Crane hit at the theoretical premise on which the John Birch society operates. This, he said, is that as the government has intervened in more and more areas of the nation's life, it has moved inevitably "down the road toward collectivism and Communism."

Given this premise, "every act of the federal government carries with it the menacing threat of Communism," said Rev. Crane. "When the government forced integration in the South, this was clearly Communism at work. Or consider the Social Security system — obviously Communist. Likewise the income tax."

MEMBERS LEAVE

But the storm raging in Santa Barbara was evidence that this conservative haven of the well-to-do was not accepting the Welch brand of McCarthyism.

Some members of the John Birch society are reported to have resigned. The News-Press front paged a news story that a member of the society from nearby Goleta had asked Welch to explain his charge that former President Eisenhower was guilty of "treasonable acts."

This is another member of the society on his way out. Welch has set it down as the first principle of organization that he, as leader, will not tolerate dissent and/or questioning of his actions on the pain of expulsion.

Welch has boasted his society has organized in some 20 states with 25 "cells" in the Boston area alone with membership strongest in Tennessee, Texas and Southern California. Somewhat the same kind of storm, as in Santa Barbara, has been raised in Pasadena over the society. More may be on the way.

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The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
Date 3-11-61
People's World P.9

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Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Belmont
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Mr. Evans
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Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Mabley's Report

Here's Proof Welch DID Call Ike 'Red'

> Communists with his knowledge and acquiescence, as the price he consciously paid for their making him president. In the third stage, in my own firm opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and his actions. That word is treason.
>
> 268 The Politician

ACCUSING PAGE FROM WELCH BOOK
Mabley documents case against author.

BY JACK MABLEY

This column today offers documented proof that Robert Welch, leader of the John Birch society, has accused President Eisenhower of being a Communist, and of treason.

JACK MABLEY

These despicable allegations are made in the suppressed book, "The Politician," written by Welch.

Since the John Birch society was exposed by this writer last July 25, Welch has called in all copies of the book, and has virtually denied its existence.

Reproduced above is a section of the book which contains the most scurrilous statements. The book itself is 302 pages long, with offset type, and hard covers. It was circulated only among the top lieutenants in Welch's society.

THE JOHN BIRCH society is an "anti-communist" organization. Welch is the absolute dictator. The society is gaining a foothold in most large cities. In Chicago and suburbs there are believed to be thousands of members in various "cells."

They have adopted many communist techniques. They form front organizations, using different names. They infiltrate clubs and school groups and similar organizations. They organize letter-writing campaigns.

They are responsible for vicious attacks on patriotic citizens who dare disagree with their methods.

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THE CHICAGO AMERICAN
DIAMOND FINAL Edition
Date MAR 10 1961
Chicago, Illinois
Page 1 Col. 1
Part —
Editor LUKE P. CARROLL
CHICAGO OFFICE

Sen. Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, Wednesday placed in the Congressional Record two columns by this writer, then with the Daily News, from last July 25 and 26.

Said Sen. Young:

"Welch has made accusations against the President of the United States and other top officers far beyond anything the late Senator Joe McCarthy even thought of.

"To label some of our most loyal and dedicated people as communists plays right into the hands of communists."

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, praised Sen. Young for denouncing the Birch society.

HERE ARE SOME other statements by Welch, who, incidentally, will be in Chicago Sunday on a mission for his society.

"Communist influences are now in almost complete control of our federal government.

"I am proposing the formation of the John Birch society . . . under completely authoritative controls at all levels . . . we mean business every step of the way."

Welch formed the society in a private meeting in an Indianapolis club in December, 1958. He told the businessmen he called together from all parts of the country, "Democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

WELCH WAS SO irrational that responsible leaders who watched his organization believed it would wither as members became aware of their leader's fanatacism.

However, Welch toned down after being exposed by this column after he called in all copies of "The Politician," members refused to acknowledge that such a book even existed.

Welch has continued to persuade well-meaning citizens to join the society.

HE NO LONGER can be ignored. His capacity for undermining government authority and the democratic processes is growing. He can do grave damage to the country, and serve the communists well under his "anti-communist" guise.

More documentation will appear in these columns.

0-19 (Rev. 2-13-61)

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Group Lists Eisenhower As Red, Senate Is Told

By the Associated Press

Senator Milton R. Young, Republican of North Dakota, said in the Senate yesterday that leaders of an ultra-conservative and semi-secret group operating in many States have falsely accused former President Eisenhower of being a Communist.

Senator Young said the organization is known as the John Birch Society, claims to be fighting communism and has accused Senator Young himself of "being about every kind of scoundrel, including a Communist or pro-Communist."

Names Leader

He said the leader of the Birch Society is Robert Welch, a retired business executive of Belmont, Mass.

Democratic Leader Mansfield of Montant lauded Senator Young for his denunciation of the society. He said he has heard of the group in his own State and "something is wrong somewhere."

Senator Young said the society has organized cells in North Dakota among "some of the most able and influential people in each community."

He said Mr. Welch has "made accusations against the President of the United States and other top officials far beyond anything the late Senator Joe McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, even thought of."

"To label some of our most loyal and dedicated people as Communists plays right into the hands of the Communists," he added.

Cites Reports on Society

Senator Young placed in the Congressional Record articles from the Chicago Daily News of last July 26 and the current edition of Time magazine dealing with the Birch Society and Mr. Welch.

The News story said Mr. Welch is author of a book, "The Politician," which tries to prove that former President Eisenhower was a dedicated Communist and his brother, Milton R. Eisenhower, was Ike's superior in the Communist Party."

The Time article told of society activities in several States and Mr. Welch as a former prominent Boston businessman who regards the income tax and social security as moves toward communism.

It said John Birch was a United States Navy captain who was killed by Chinese Communist guerrillas after VJ Day.

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The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
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New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
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The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
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Senator Scores Extremist Unit That Views Eisenhower as Red

Young Deplores Expansion of John Birch Society—Mansfield Joins Attack

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP)—Senator Milton R. Young said today that leaders of an ultra-conservative, semi-secret group operating in many states had falsely accused former President Eisenhower of being a Communist.

The North Dakota Republican, on the Senate floor, said the organization was known as the John Birch Society. It contends to be fighting communism, he said, and has accused him [Mr. Young] of "being about every kind of a scoundrel, including a Communist or pro-Communist."

He identified the leader as Robert Welch, a retired business executive of Belmont, Mass.

Senator Mike Mansfield, majority leader, praised Mr. Young for his denunciation of the group. The Montanan said he had heard of it in his state and "something is wrong somewhere."

Influence Is Cited

Mr. Young said the society had cells in North Dakota among 'some of the most able and influential people in each community."

He said Mr. Welch had "made accusations against the President of the United States and other top officers far beyond anything the late Senator Joe McCarthy [of Wisconsin] even thought of."

"To label some of our most loyal and dedicated people as Communists plays right into the hands of the Communists," he declared.

He placed in the Congressional Record articles from The Chicago Daily News of last July 26 and the current edition of Time magazine dealing with the society and Welch.

The News article said Mr. Welch was the author of a book, "The Politician," which tries to prove that General Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist and that his brother, Dr. Milton R. Eisenhower, is "Ike's superior in the Communist party."

The Time article told of society activities in several states. It said Mr. Welch was a former prominent Boston business man who regarded the income tax and Social Security as moves toward communism.

Associated Press

Senator Milton R. Young

It explained that John Birch was a Navy captain who had been killed by Chinese Communist guerrillas after the surrender of Japan. Mr. Young said most of the group's criticism "is leveled not against liberal public officials, but against the more middle-of-the road and even conservative Republicans."

"From a practical political point of view," he said, "such charges actually are of some help. It is sort of a medicine to some liberal-thinking people who often have accused me of being a reactionary consrvativ."

Membership Unknown

The society was founded, according to Mr. Welch, to fight communism and work for less government and more individual responsibility.

It first came into the limelight last summer. The society's home office is at 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Mass., a suburb of Boston. Its annual dues are $24 for men and $12 for women. A life membership cocts $1,000. The number of members is not known.

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New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times P 12 C
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
Date 3-9-61

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UPI-133

(BIRCH SOCIETY)

WASHINGTON--SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D., AND SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT., TODAY SOUGHT TO RALLY PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, WHOSE TOP OFFICIAL ACCUSED FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER OF BEING A COMMUNIST AGENT.

IN SEPARATE SENATE SPEECHES, YOUNG AND MANSFIELD DEPLORED THE ORGANIZATION'S GROWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE DAKOTAS AND MONTANA, ALTHOUGH YOUNG QUOTED A (TIME) MAGAZINE ARTICLE AS REPORTING IT HAS ACTIVE "CELLS" IN MORE THAN 35 STATES. ONE NORTH DAKOTA CITY ALONE HAS FOUR CELLS, YOUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES "SOME OF THE MOST ABLE AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN EACH COMMUNITY." ITS CRITICISM, HE SAID, IS LEVELED "NOT AGAINST LIBERAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS, BUT AGAINST MORE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD, AND EVEN CONSERVATIVE, REPUBLICANS."

SOCIETY PRESIDENT ROBERT WELCH "HAS MADE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING THE LATE SEN. JOE MCCARTHY EVER THOUGHT OF," YOUNG SAID.

HE SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE FROM A CHICAGO NEWSPAPER (NEWS) IN WHICH WELCH'S BOOK, "THE POLITICIAN," WAS SAID TO HAVE TRIED TO PROVE THAT EISENHOWER "IS A CONSCIOUS, DEDICATED AGENT OF THE COMMUNISTS," AND HIS ADMINISTRATION "CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY."

MANSFIELD JOINED IN CRITICIZING THE ATTACK ON EISENHOWER, AND IN URGING THE PUBLIC TO "JUDGE THIS ORGANIZATION FOR WHAT IT IS."

YOUNG SAID THE SOCIETY HAS ACCUSED HIM "OF BEING ABOUT EVERY KIND OF SCOUNDREL, INCLUDING A COMMUNIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

50 MAR 20 1961

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Birch Society Denies Commie List

By THOMAS THOMPSON and DON BOYETT

An Amarillo official of the John Birch Society today denied any connection between that organization and an alleged list of at least five Amarillo men accused of being Communists or leaning toward communism.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William L. (Jerry) Dee, volunteer co-ordinator for the society, told The Globe-Times if such a list of alleged fellow travelers does exist, it is not a product of the John Birch Society. "And as far as I know none of our people had anything to do with it," he added.

"As far as I know there are no Communists in Amarillo," the retired commander of Amarillo Air Force Base said, though he did add that some people in Amarillo may be unknowingly used as dupes of communism.

The rumored list includes the names of two ministers, a candidate for the City Commission, an attorney and a City of Amarillo department head. Some of

REC 62

"Amarillo Globe Times"
Amarillo, Texas

March 6, 1961

Thomas Thompson, Editor
Submitted by Dallas Office

File John Birch Society

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the men on the list say they have been told that such a list exists and that their names are on it, though none have seen it.

Gen. Lee blamed the rumor on possible Communist tactics. "The Communists would like nothing better than for us to be divided and fighting among ourselves," he said.

The rumored list climaxes several weeks of edginess built up here by clashes between John Birch members and others who consider the society is too extreme in its method of fighting communism. A few crises have built up in Amarillo churches over the issues and some ministers fear serious splits will develop in their churches.

Gen. Lee says friction in the churches is caused by the ministers defending the National Council of Churches, which he says is Communist infiltrated. "We have documented proof that the National Council has been infiltrated by Communists," he said, "and some of these ministers just won't listen to us.

"Until we can convince them that the National Council has some Communist followers in it there is going to be some friction," he added.

The retired general said that not long ago he had been accused of calling a minister here a Communist. He said that this is a false accusation.

"Preachers don't become Communists; Communists become preachers," he said.

He went on to say that singling out prominent local people could be the handiwork of "fellow travelers. That's a prime technique of the Communists."

The John Birch Society is a nationwide organization dedicated to fighting the spread of communism. It was started in 1958 by a Boston candy maker, Robert Welch, who is the self-appointed head of the organization. International headquarters of the society are at Belmont, Mass.

The first chapter was organized here last August by Lee, who had been a member of the home chapter at Belmont. Since his retirement from the Air Force Gen. Lee has dedicated his life to the fight against communism and has selected the John Birch Society as his primary vehicle in that fight.

Lee estimates there are now some 16 chapters in Amarillo, each with from 12 to 20 members. Many other chapters are located in other Panhandle and South Plains cities and he figures there are as many as 60 chapters in Houston alone.

Lee says the main credo of the organization is "less government, more individual responsibility and a better world."

In contacts with the public, he said, the members speak only as individuals and never sign their name in letters as members of the John Birch Society. Members of the chapters band together to study the spread of communism and the workings of their own government.

Most of their activities consist of writing letters to editors, as well as to congressmen and senators concerning national issues. One goal of the society as set forth in its "Blue Book" is the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, a point referred to in many letters to the editor here.

Members of the Birch Society were instrumental in asking the Amarillo City Commission recently to ban a "Great Decisions" discussion series from being held at Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library.

Citing a booklet prepared by an American Legion Post in Atlanta, Ga., the opponents of the program contended it was left-inspired.

The discussion series is sponsored in a number of U. S. public libraries by the 42-year-old Foreign Policy Association, an educational institution supported by foundation grants, individuals and subscriptions, and claiming endorsements of President Kennedy, former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman, former Vice President Richard Nixon and all former American presidents to Woodrow Wilson.

The city commission refused to bar the discussion series from the library.

Lee said most of the Birch Society members are people who have only recently become aware of the spread of communism and must be educated to the fact.

The society also has fostered a large number of splinter groups here, which possibly include even more members. Most of these groups were started after some people attended John Birch Society meetings, but felt the authoritarian type organization was not the answer.

Many of these groups are now conducting their own study courses for informative purposes, but are not tied to any formal organization.

The bulk of John Birch Society membership here is composed of doctors, dentists, insurance men and realtors, though by all means not all in these professions and businesses subscribe to the movement. Few if any attorneys are members.

Lee spends most of his time making speeches against communism and showing the John Birch Society - information film. This film is a speech by Robert Welch which gives the background of the organization, along with a running history on the spread of communism over the

(See BIRCH—Page 2)

WILLIAM L. LEE

Birch—

world.

In recent months the society has made rapid advances all over the United States. Lee says it's "growing like toadstools" in all parts of the country and the founders hope it will live for hundreds of years.

It has remained out of the limelight, primarily through efforts of Welch and most of its members. This is probably because what publicity has been given the society has not all been favorable.

Most damaging of this publicity has been stories in several newspapers which quoted from a book which Welch printed and distributed to a selected few members. In the book, "The Politician," Welch, according to the Milwaukee Journal and Boston Herald, tried to prove that former President Eisenhower is a dedicated conscientious agent of the Communist Party.

It claims that Mr. Eisenhower's brother, Milton, is the former president's superior in the party and that a dozen other highly placed former government men are either outright Communists or tools of the party.

Congressman Walter Rogers told The Globe-Times today that he had written Welch several months ago and asked for a copy of the book. "Welch wrote back that he couldn't let me see it," Congressman Rogers said.

"He said it was extended for his helpers, that he was calling them in because the Communists were using it against him."

Rogers said he told Welch that he was against communism, too, but "I wanted to oppose it according to the Constitution. What the Communists want most is for us to abandon our Constitutional way of doing things."

Rogers indicated he hadn't taken a position against the John Birch Society, but he told Welch that "people are entitled to know both sides."

The Pampa congressman said he had become very interested in the organization. He said he has had mail from people who identified themselves as members of the society, and much mail from people in his district who don't say so, but who obviously are members.

Also, he has had anti-John Birch Society mail, he said.

Members of the Texas Legislature have not been the target of John Birch mail or anti-John Birch mail, they report. The assumption is that most of the letters attacking alleged fellow travelers are going to Washington.

However, Rep. Ted Springer of Amarillo said this morning that he received more than 400 letters over the weekend on a variety of issues, mostly opposed to pari-mutuel horse racing.

Film On Red Riots Viewed In Jackson

A film on the Communist-led student riots in San Francisco against the House Un-American Activities Committee was the spark plug of a drive today for Jackson members of the John Birch Society.

Titled "The San Francisco Story", it was shown to an audience at the King Edward Hotel Wednesday night with a lively panel discussion afterward.

In the opening the film carried an introduction from Dick Morphew, staff member of the Citizens Councils' Jackson headquarters.

On the panel were Dr. Medford Evans of Natchitoches, La., area coordinator for the John Birch Society; Dr. Curtis W. Caine of Jackson, and Louis W. Hollis, executive director of the Jackson Citizens Council.

Both Dr. Caine and Hollis belong to the John Birch Society, an anti-Communist organization allied with right-wing causes.

The Jackson chapter of the John Birch Society, headed by rooling executive William T. Clark, announced it was enlisting members in the Society's national drive to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court.

Dr. Caine spoke up for the proposed 23rd Amendment which he said would force the federal government out of private enterprise. The Washington government runs about 700 unconstitutional corporations, he declared.

"Uncle Sam holds a gun in your back, while he has his hand in your pocket," Dr. Caine said.

Dr. Caine urged that Mississippians get behind the legislature next year to endorse the 23rd Amendment resolution which died on the calendar of the 1960 session.

Evans declared that the Warren impeachment drive "is not in order to attack the institutions of government, but to restore constitutional government."

Formerly chief of security for the Atomic Energy Commission, Evans branded "peaceful co-existence" as part of the Communist Party line. Other parts he said, are to halt nuclear tests, integrate public schools and recognize Red China.

He charged that the National Council of Churches has followed the Communist Party line "on all its major points."

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Mr. Evans
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Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
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STATE-TIMES
MAR 2 - 1961
JACKSON, MISS.
NEW ORLEANS OFFICE

COMMUNSIT PARTY, USA

File John Birch Society

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Sumner's Report

Ike a Red, John Birch Leader Says

By BILL SUMNER

It is difficult to quarrel with the stated aim of the John Birch Society.

"Our dedicated purpose," states one of its manifestos, "is to alert persons of good character—regardless of race, color or creed—to the dangers of Communism, and to point out by means of films, tapes, books and pamphlets, documentary evidence of Socialist and/or Communist advances within this country."

Some of the many hundreds of well-meaning people who have been attracted to the Society in this area might be interested in just how far the founder and boss of this organization feels the Communist conspiracy has gone.

Robert Welch, 71, the founder of the John Birch Society, stated flatly in a booklet he had printed in 1958, that President Eisenhower is a Communist.

He wrote, in "The Politician":

"While I too think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist, and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct. But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

★ ★ ★

COPIES OF this book were given to the leaders of the movement, but efforts are being made now to withdraw it from circulation.

Evidently there is disagreement in the organization on the infallibility of Founder Welch in at least this one instance.

Dr. Granville Knight, Santa Barbara physician and a member of the national Council of the John Birch Society, described it as a confidential document containing Welch's personal opinions.

Welch is the man, at any rate, who directs the team in such activities as letter writing, school book censorship and political action. He is the man who has urged his members to take over the PTAs to "make such groups the instrument of conservative purposes, with the same vigor and determination that the liberals have used the opposite aims."

★ ★ ★

AND HE has the backing of a group of considerable importance in this country, members of his Council, which includes Dean Clarence Manion, T. Coleman Andrews, Adolph Menjou and Spruille Braden.

Locally, and in this area, the Society seems to be attracting men and women of some substance. It would not pay to dismiss them as a group of fanatics and crackpots worthy only of a passing snort.

Two candidates in the recent La Canada school board election, for example, one of them successful, feel that the Society had some influence in that election. How much, it would be difficult to say, but both candidates seemed to regard the Society as faintly menacing and potentially dangerous.

★ ★ ★

MENACE? A danger? I think at the moment that may be reaching. But there is a feeling of some discomfort. I have the feeling that here is a group of dedicated men and women, with some potential for power, who do not believe in the democratic form of government.

I may be wrong in this conclusion, but there is nothing to suggest that I am. This, I guess, is the season for understatement.

Star News
Feb. 13, 1961
Pasadena, Calif.
Editor: Lee Merriman
Los Angeles Field Division
LA 100-59001

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Sumner's Report

Introducing the John Birch Group

By BILL SUMNER

We have in our midst a growing, increasing active group of ultra conservatives doing business as the John Birch Society. More than likely this is the first time that many of you will have heard of it. It is not a secret organization, but it has avoided publicity while gaining strength.

It is a national organization dedicated to the destruction of communism in this country and a rebuilding of this nation in the conservative image. It seeks to educate the public, as with some local sponsorship of documentary films and aims at local political influence.

Until recently, the members of its cells have sought to influence with letter writing campaigns, such as that demanding the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, but now has a record of influence in at least one school board campaign, that of La Canada, and has as a target the defeat of so-called left-wing elements in the PTA.

It is a dedicated, disciplined group which probably numbers in the hundreds in this area. The objective in the United States is a membership of a million.

★ ★ ★

THE SOCIETY was founded in Indianapolis on Dec. 9, 1958, by Robert Welch, 71, formerly the head of the candy company which bears his name. It was named for a John Birch, a captain in the U.S. Army who, it is said, was murdered by Chinese Communists 10 days after VJ Day.

Welch is a well-educated man. He is a native of North Carolina and graduated from the university there. He attended Annapolis 1 [illegible] years, Harvard Law School for two more, and has lived in Boston since 1917.

He is not only the founder of the organization, but its absolute boss, as well. No bones are made about this. Potential recruits are told frankly at organization meetings that Welch will do their thinking. Such is the nature of the emergency in regard to the Communist conspiracy that there is no place for dissent within the ranks.

Welch, in fact, has been quoted as saying:

"Democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

★ ★ ★

LOCALLY, recruiting efforts are staged in homes and consist mainly of a four-hour movie in which Welch explains the aims and methods of his group. Welch is the sole occupant of the screen, and it is understood that this is merely a segment of a 12-hour-long movie, also of Welch.

After explaining the origins of the Society, he goes on to say that there must be complete obedience within the group. He states that Communists would infiltrate with any other process and make their work useless.

He explains that the Society is organized on a cell theory of operations. Each cell director attends monthly meetings to get directions from a district director and then reports back to his own group.

★ ★ ★

A DIRECTOR is responsible for his group's cooperation. Anyone who does not cooperate faces immediate expulsion.

Assignments also come in the monthly John Birch Bulletin, edited by Welch.

What is not discussed at this preliminary meeting is a booklet written by Welch, called "The Politician," which identifies former President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and others of the Eisenhower administration as Communists.

We'll go further into this one on Monday.

INTERSEC.

STAR-NEWS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
2/10/61
Editor - Lee Merriman
Los Angeles Division

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
LA File 100-59001

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The Wrong Way To Fight Reds

Birch Society Is Recruiting

BY JACK MABLEY

THE John Birch Society is going to Chicago area churches chambers of commerce and civic organizations, to recruit members.

"Come, join us in the fight against Communists," members plead.

Jack Mabley's Story

Inasmuch as 99.9999 per cent of us are anti-Communist, they obviously have something to sell. But the conscientious citizens asks, "Is this the best way to fight communism? What is the John Birch Society?"

Since I am asked this often, because I wrote two columns about it last July, I will tell what I know about the society.

Group Founded In Indianapolis

It was founded in Indianapolis in 1958 by a group of businessmen led by Robert Welch, a former candy manufacturer of Boston.

Welch, by his own words, is the absolute boss of the society, which was named after a U.S. Army captain murdered by Chinese Reds.

This organization must be run by a "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss," says Welch and he is it.

* * *

WELCH HAS written a privately printed book called "The Politician." It was circulated only among the top, trusted leaders of the John Birch Society.

It is impossible for an ordinary member to see a copy of the book, or even get acknowledgment that it exists. I have read it, and will vouch that it exists.

In the book, Welch calls Dwight D. Eisenhower a traitor and a Communist.

He says that John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Chief Justice Earl Warren and former defense secretary Neil McElroy and most of the leaders of the Eisenhower administration, are or were part of a Communist conspiracy to take over this nation.

Some Excerpts From the Book

This is from Welch's book: "While I too think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist, and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct.

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems ti put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

He says of Mr. Eisenhower: ". . . there is only one possible word to describe his purpose and actions. That word is treason."

* * *

WE REPRINT these words only because they are totally idiotic and because people who are asked to follow Welch are not aware of what really is in in his mind.

The Communist threat in this country is real enough. The country needs the energy and interest of every citizen who will work to counteract the Communist evil.

But the unbelievable irresponsibility espoused secretly by Welch can bring only scorn and harm to real anti-Communist work.

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File - 5 - JHC
62-104401

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
RED STREAK Edition
Date JAN 30 1961
Chicago, Illinois
Page 3 Col. 1
Part —
Editor THOMAS COLLINS
CHICAGO OFFICE

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By Hans Engh
News-Press Staff Writer

Even though Dr. Granville Knight, Santa Barbara member of the 28-man national council of the John Birch Society, declined to divulge the identity of the local leader as well as other society members, some of the members themselves discussed their participation in its activities.

Mrs. Rose H. Bradbury, 2 Rosemary Ln., said: "I think it's a very fine organization. I've never missed a meeting." The first local chapter was formed a little over a year ago after Robert Welch, founder and president

A NEWS-PRESS SPECIAL REPORT

of the national organization, spoke at a meeting for specially invited persons at the Biltmore Hotel.

Mrs. Bernard R. Foy of San Marcos Trout Club said that she is a member. Asked whether she had been informed that the soceity is secret, she answered "no," but that it is "not too public either."

'EXCELLENT PLAN'

Saying that she highly approves of the society, Miss M. B. Phillips, 209 W. Micheltorena St., said that she has been a member for nearly a year. She said that she believes that Welch has an excellent plan, but that she does not necessarily agree with every statement he has made.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Goodnow, 700 Park Ln., said that they are proud to be associated with such an organization. Asked if they subscribe to Welch's opinion that President Eisenhower is a dedicated agent of international Communism, they said that they would not call him (the President) a Communist. "If he is one, he doesn't know it," they said.

Kirke Connor, 4395 Via Esperanza, also said that he is a member, describing the society as a "fine movement." However, he said that he could hardly believe that Welch had called Eisenhower a Communist, and that he would not agree with that sort of statement. When contacted, other persons believed to be active in the society said that they had no comment to make.

STRUCTURE SHOWN

The semi-secret structure of the society is shown in one instance by a San Marcos High School teacher who is known to have passed around among other teachers a question-and-answer letter on "why the John Birch Society is what responsible citizens have been waiting for. Yet when asked about his interest in the society, he said that he had no comments about it. He said that he had been to one meeting and that he was planning to attend another.

Dr. Knight said that the society has not sought publicity, and that membership is by invitation only. In addition, since study groups are part of the organization's setup, the presence of antagonistic members could completely disrupt such meetings, he said. "The society has been criticized for not making public the names of members," he said. "This is to protect those who do not wish to be disturbed by nuisance tactics." He said that the membership here runs into "the hundreds."

In his Blue Book, the society's "bible," Welch not only discusses what he believes are Communistic leanings of high government officials. Writing about the nation's clergy, he says that "one-third of the ministers are not true believers in the Divine names or the Divine history and Divine teachings to which they give lip serv-

See SOCIETY, Page B-2

Continued

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Santa Barbara News-Press
1/23/61
Editor Thomas M. Storke
Santa Barbara, Calif.

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John Birch Society

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Continued from Page B-1

ice as they go through their conventional motions on Sunday morning." He claims that some of them are using their pulpits to preach outright Communism.

WORD ABOUT PRESS

He also has a word or two about the press, saying in one of his Bulletins, circulated among society members, that "a well-intentioned management has no conception of how far the termites have crept into the solid-looking framework of their news gathering and news writing."

Welch told the men attending the organizational meeting in Indianapolis two years ago that the time had come for this country to get out of the bed of a Europe that is dying with the cancer of collectivism, and breathe "our own healthful air of opportunity, freedom and enterprise." Then, he said, the cancer that we already have, even though it is of considerable growth, can be cut out.

He told the group that his society would operate under complete, authoritative control at all levels. Describing himself as a hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss, Welch said that "the men who join the society are going to do so because they believe in me and are willing to accept my leadership." He said:

"Whenever differences of opinion become translated into a lack of loyal support, we shall have shortcuts for eliminating both without going through any congress of so-called democratic processes."

COUNCIL MEMBERS

In addition to Dr. Knight, the following are some of the members of the national council: Dr. N. E. Adamson Jr., a Boston surgeon; Thomas Anderson, editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch; Coleman Andrews, former commissioner of internal revenue; Spruille Braden, former U.S. ambassador; Col. Lawrence E. Bunker, former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; James Simpson Jr., former congressman, several businessmen, and Adolphe Menjou, the actor.

The purpose of the council is to give "your founder the benefit of the council's advice and guidance, both in procedural and organizational matters, and in substantive matters of policy" and "to select with absolute and final authority, a successor to myself as head of the John Birch Society, if, and when, an accident, 'suicide' or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists—or I simply die in bed of old age and a cantankerous disposition."

Regarding the organization of local chapters, Welch says in the Blue Book that each shall have a chapter leader, appointed by headquarters, which is in Belmont, Mass., or appointed through officers of the society, in the field, who have themselves been duly appointed by headquarters.

Stressing that it takes money "to do wonders in adding new courage and new confidence to the anti-Communist fight," and that $1,000,000 and 1,000,000 members are needed, Welch said that the dues are "whatever the member wants to make them, with a minimum of $24 per year for men and $12 for women." A life membership may be bought for $1,000, which may be paid in two installments of $500.

Santa Barbara News-Press
1/23/61
Editor Thomas M. Storke
Santa Barbara, Calif.

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These Days

A-7

By George E. Sokolsky

Jumping Jupiter!

NOW ALONG comes a very sure person, Robert Welch, of The John Birch Society of Massachusetts, who wishes to impeach Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States. One may disagree with, dislike, oppose Earl Warren, but impeachment is another matter. It involves a bill of particulars, specific, clear-cut, subject to evidence and analysis. Welch does not provide that. He says:

Sokolsky

"... we believe that the impeachment of Warren would dramatize and crystallize the whole basic question of whether the United States remains an independent republic, or gradually becomes transformed into a province of the world-wide Soviet system."

But this is not the issue at all. This is a private opinion, not a fact. What is necessary is to indict Earl Warren for high crimes and misdemeanors that will stand up in a trial. Thus far, only one President of the United States has been impeached, and unsuccessfully, and no Chief Justice of the United States has been impeached. That does not mean that none ever should be. It does, however, mean that this is not a simple process for indicating opposition. Under our system, it is extremely difficult. Robert Welch thinks otherwise:

"We further believe that it is entirely possible to bring about that impeachment in the present House of Representatives, through insistent enough demand by the American people, if even one-half of the known present conservative leaders will give their energetic support to this undertaking ..."

APPARENTLY, Welch has no conception of the procedure involved in an impeachment.

Certainly in the present composition of our Congress, there is no possibility that the time will be allotted by the leadership of either party for such an impeachment. For what would have to be proved? The indictment could not show that the Chief Justice's views were unpleasant, for there are eight other Justices who could have voted him down. It would have to be shown that he was corrupt, that he accepted bribes, that he was subversive, that his conduct was opprobrious to the United States and the Court.

No matter what can be said of Earl Warren, it cannot be said that he has been corrupt, which means accepting bribes, or that he has been subversive, which means, in this context, that he is engaged in transactions to damage the United States in the interest of a foreign foe. No bill of particulars can be brought forth to prove such charges. Therefore to talk of impeachment is nonsense.

I CALL attention to this not because it is of any significance of itself but because conservatives need to use common sense in their agitations. There are things to be said and to be done but these need to be focused on ideas, not on impractical proposals to impeach the Chief Justice because there is disagreement about his views or to discover an invisible government which has controlled all the administrations from Herbert Hoover to John Kennedy.

The conservatives of this country are numerous but not always coherent. Unless they find intelligent leadership that relates what they do and say to the realities of American life, they will make no greater progress in the new Democratic Administration than was made in the old Eisenhower Administration.

One of the first points of a conservative program must be that the United States cannot tolerate the cost of unemployment or racial or creedal battles while this country is engaged in a life struggle against the Soviet universal state. And the one absolute essential is that the American dollar should again become hard money, well secured and safe. The conservatives need to decide whether they prefer to fight against Communism or against each other.

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The Washington Post and Times Herald A-7
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The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
The New Leader
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Not a 'Hate' Society

Anti-Red Group Weakest in N.E.

By STANLEY EAMES
(Third of three stories)

Is the John Birch Society a "hate" organization?

Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, its 60-year-old founder and boss, who once termed President Eisenhower a Communist agent subject to the orders of his brother (and alleged superior in the Party), Milton, denies it forcefully.

★ ★ ★

"We haven't got a 'hater' anywhere in our membership. And our membership reaches into about 20 states, with about 25 chapters in Greater Boston alone," he says.

★ ★ ★

Welch insists the organization is no more nor less than a society dedicated to the eradication of Communism and the substitution of less, and better, government for big, bad government.

Although he says time and again the group is not a secret society, Welch is vague about its size and the degree of its influence on national affairs.

Organized by Welch in 1958 before what he terms a meeting of top U. S. industrialist, it has mushroomed into all parts of the nation. He says it is strongest in Tennessee, Texas and Southern California—strongholds respectively of arch-conservatism and various kinds of fanaticism.

Hardest Area

"We're not too strong in New England," he admitted. "This is the hardest part of the country in which to wake up people against

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Boston Globe
Boston American
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Date: August 30, 1960
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Author xx STANLEY EAMES
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Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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Page: 5

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His periodically-in lists one to 20 10 to 20 persons each New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, Oregon and Washington. This would imply a membership somewhere in the thousands, possibly in the low hundreds of thousands.

"We went out for a million members, but that may have been the result of talking before experience," he said. "We find that getting the solid, dedicated members that we want —not just anti-Communists— is a slower process than we expected. We have also found out," he said," that what we can accomplish through small chapters is immensely greater than we thought."

Named for a U. S. missionary-chaplain murdered by Chinese Communists, the Society now has 17 home-office and 35 field employes.

Welch works through an organization of "coordinators", who organize chapters with the help of movies of Welch' delivering speeches, one of which lasts six hours with a coffee-break.

McCarthy Admirers

Ninety-five per cent of the Society's membership, he says, are admirers of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, with whom Welch once shared a platform here. But members "are all kinds of people," he said, "ranging in age from 16 to 90.

"In one large Texas city we have two or three chapters. One is made up of top financial people, another of carpenters who worked for our coordinator, another of Negroes, mostly servants." The Society is bitterly against "forced integration" as a violation of state's rights. Some college chapters are being launched, but with "adult leaders," Welch revealed.

The Society levies dues of $24 annually for men and $12 for women: a life membership costs $1000. It has been in the black at all times "because we don't grow until we can afford it," he said. Although details of the Society's finances are secret, he once launched a drive "to raise an additional $1,000,000 a year." Coordinators are paid, chapter leaders—and the top leader, Welch—are not.

Every member signs a pledge to agree that he or she can be fired from the Society without reason at any time, but Welch says it has not been used.

"I lean on my Council, but I have to take the ultimate responsibility," he told The Herald. On occasions he will admit in his bulletin that members have criticised slogans (to Ike, on the summit conference: "If you go, don't come back!") as being in bad taste. On those occasions, he reminds members that nobody is forcing them to stay.

"Democracy," he told this reporter, "is desirable in small organizations. In larger ones you need a republic, the best of all possible forms of government." Some members have muttered that Welch is running a dictatorship.

Not Bound

Welch periodically issues "assignments" to members, although they are not bouund to carry them out. A recent list included writing to discourage Rep. Walter from leaving the House un-American Activities subcommittee; and starting a drive to abolish foreign aid. Another such list urged the support of an anti - Communist school in Illinois; read a book on Welch's "proved" list: send anti-Castro postcards to Secretary of State Herter (who somehow has miraculously escaped Welch's charge of Communism); fight the import of foreign nails; heckle speakers at United World Federalists' meetings; don't believe — and do promptly report—rumors about Welch.

The founder's philosophy of government is simpel: the less the better.

"If we can stimulate enough against the Communists," he said, "we will become as strong force of individuals working very hard to bring about an era of less government and more individual responsibility."

What, he was asked, would be done about the sick and the poor under the kind of government he envisions?

People Sounder

"If you could keep the security out of business," he replied, "with charitableness in the American heart, you would see the best pension plans the world has ever known. You've got a demagogic leadership telling the American people they want this and that. The people are sounder than their government. Bellboys and cab drivers are more alert to the Communist menace than bankers." The burden of his philosophy appeared to be that people will take care of their own better than government—if government doesn't do the job for them.

What will be the future of his Society?

"That depends on how fast the Communists win," Welch said. "They're taking the world pretty dam fast. Just look at the scoreca'. We are in danger."

In "The Life of John Birch," one of several books by Welch, the Belmont crusader uses the story of a Georgia farm boy-turned-missionary to point up what he considers "the ordeal of this age."

MISSIONARY WORK

Birch, a descendant of John Alden, volunteered for missionary work in China; what he did was intelligence work, for the most part, and according to the late Gen. Claire Chennault he was extremely good at it. Becoming an Army captain, he saved many downed fliers, set up radio networks, penetrated enemy lines, supervised the building of airfields, and through it all found the time and will to preach the Gospel.

He was a missionary-spy with courage, dash and humor, and sufficiently dedicated to break off an engagement to a Red Cross girl when it seemed his life would be too rough for a woman to share.

At the war's end Birch was singled out from a party of Chinese and Americans, and was shot and bayoneted by Chinese Communists—a fact, according to Welch, that the War Department kept buried as long and as deep as it could.

In Birch's death, Welch sees the whole capitalist-communist issue symbolized and dramatized. His book, after dealing with Birch's life and death, goes on to allege that the U.S. government is Communist-riddled, and says his purpose is to make sure that "John Birch did not die in vain."

It is climaxed by Welch's bald statement that Christianity or Communism "must be completely destroyed."

The John Birch Society, with its intemperate viewpoint and its founder's shotgun-accusations, is his vehicle for fighting his own private war against Communism.

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

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Belmont Seat of Birch Society

Extreme Rights Take Aim at Lefts

By STANLEY EAMES

(This is the first of three stories.)

Extremists in search of a political home never have lacked for strange places to rest their heads. This year, with a moderate government in prospect regardless of the election's outcome, disciples of the Far Right are being offered a haven in the John Birch Society.

★ ★ ★

The Society is the creation of Robert H. W. Welch Jr., ultra-conservative, retired Cambridge candy manufacturer. It might have remained a behind-the-scenes organization, as Welch intended it to be, had it not been for its founder's 100,000-word "letter to a friend," titled "The Politician."

In "The Politician," Welch charged that President Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious Communist agent, answerable to his brother Milton (Ike's alleged boss in the Party), and for whose actions "there is only one word—treason."

(Continued on Page Eight, Section II)

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___ Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
___ Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.
___ Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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Extreme Rights Take Aim at Lefts

(Continued from First Page)

"The Politician" also described fromer Presidents Truman and Roosevelt as tools of international Communism, along with the Dulles brothers and various other high government officials.

Written in 1954 and added to from time to time, "The Politician" was intended as a semi-secret document outlining the progress of Communism, and particularly in the United States.

In the black-bound tome Welch describes the contents as "completely private and confidential" but in the midwest, where the John Birch Society is perhaps at its strongest, a copy leaked to a newspaper, together with the implication that it is the society's bible.

Welch this week heatedly denied any connection between the society

NOT FOR PRINT

and his hand book.

"Four-fifths of our members never have seen it and most of those who have don't agree with it," he said in an interview in his Belmont office.

"Do you still think Eisenhower is a Communist?" he was asked.

"I never felt that way enough to say it in print," Welch replied. "Now I don't know what I think. Eisenhower may be too dumb to be a Communist".

(On Jan. 1, 1960, Welch added as a footnote to "The Politician" "A huge majority of Eisenhower's appointments during the past year make no sense whatever except as a part of a plan to help the Communists".)

"The Politician" grew like Topsy; Welch is a prolific and ersuasive writer; years ago he also wrote with wit and charm. After the first copy, intended to go to "one friend" and expanded to a few more, he says the demand for it grew.

"I added to it every time I got requests for it," he said. "By 1956 it had grown to 6,000 words. By 1958, it was up to 80,000. At that point I decided to reproduce it by offset — but it's still just a long letter to a friend."

He declined to reveal how many copies are out, except to say it is "in the low hundreds". Its major purpose, he insists, is simply to alert its readers to "the incredible pattern of help to Communism by our government."

SEEKS WITHDRAWAL

Nevertheless, he added, he now intends to try to withdraw each copy, and get it out of circulation as quickly a spossible.

If he suspected President Eisenhower of Communist leanings, Welch was asked, how about the four Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates?

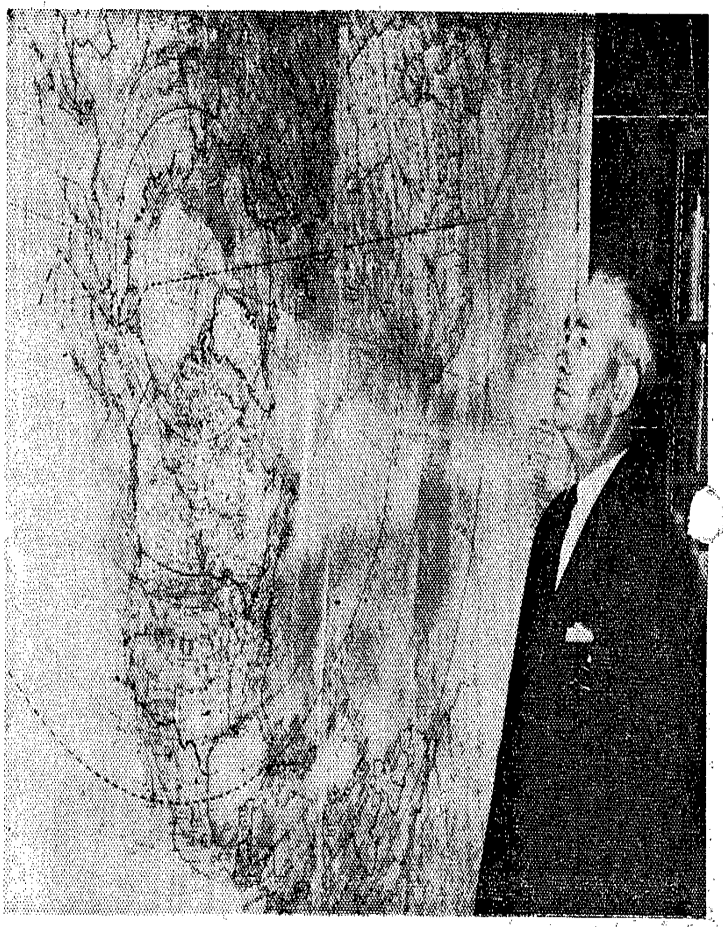
"I don't think any one is a Communist," he said, "or favorable to Communist aims. But every one of the four is willing to be soft on Communism and to be blind to the fact that their actions help the Communist purpose — to get the left-wing support needed for election."

What will the John Birch Society, which Welch bosses almost completely, do in the coming election?

"I have to let the members know in September what I'm going to do," he said. "we were all set for a write-in drive for Goldwater, but he doesn't want it. I do know that I can't vote for Nixon and Lodge."

The John Birch Society is not essentially political, he said. "We are not out to start a third party, but we can be a strong force behind a third party if that's the only way. The society didn't for the Presidential nomination, but a lot of the members did as individuals." Welch himself was a prime organizer of the abortive Goldwater rally at the Republican national convention.

In fact, when Welch was outlining the formation of the society at a meeting in Indianapolis on Dec. 9, 1958, he briefly considered



A COMMUNIST WORLD?—Fear of spread of Red influence has moved Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, who once called President Eisenhower a Communist, to form the John Birth Society, a controversial organization with which he opposes Communism and welfare state.

Goldwater as its leader, but found several reasons why it wouldn't do. He considered even more briefly Vice-President Nixon ("one of the ablest, shrewdest and slipperiest politicians on the American scene, but not a leader").

He concluded, not surprisingly, that he was the man for the job. And he laid down some tough requirements for membership, chief among which was something approaching unquestioning obedience.

In his "Blue Book", consisting of the 174-page speech he delivered in several marathon sessions at Indianapolis, Welch said the society "is to be a monolithic body.

"Democracy," he declared, "is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, a perennial fraud." He spoke of the "advantages of firm and positive direction of the society's energies", and pledged:

"We are going to cut through the red tape and parliamentary briar patches and roadblocks of confused purpose with direct authority at every turn. The men who join the John Birch Society . . . are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway.

"And we are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource, to the fullest possible advantage.

MUM ON SIZE

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the society".

Welch this week said this position was taken to avoid Communist infiltration within the society.

Apparently, although Welch refuses to give figures on the size of the society, it has a substantial membership willing to adhere to these conditions.

Society publications, including the magazine "American Opinion", give the Belmont post office its largest single source of revenue, approaching $25,000 a year.

(TOMORROW: What is the John Birch Society, and what is it doing?)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Gallahan
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Mr. Malone
Mr. McGuire
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Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Probe John Birch Group in Wisconsin

A Wisconsin newspaper has begun an investigation of the John Birch Society in that state.

The society, which accuses President Eisenhower of treason and brands him a Communist, has grown to 10 chapters in Wisconsin during the past year, according to the Milwaukee Journal.

Two articles concerning the society appeared in the Daily News in Jack Mabley's column last week.

* * *

THE OSTENSIBLE purpose of the organization is to fight communism and influence American politics.

The society was founded by Robert H. W. Welch Jr., 61, of Belmont, Mass., described by the Journal as "a persuasive speaker, conservative and the author of 'The Politician'."

The 302-page privately reproduced volume which Welch has sent to leaders of the society says former President Franklin D. Roosevelt was used unknowingly by the Communist party and ex-President Truman was knowingly used.

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Bares Secrets— Of 'Red-Haters'

They Think Ike Is a Communist

BY JACK MABLEY

THE John Birch Society is an organization of ultra-conservatives, banded together to fight communism in America.

It is not a secret society in the normal sense of the word, but it tries to avoid publicity. Until this moment, it has been successful.

Jack Mabley's Story

The head — and absolute head—of the John Birch Society is Robert Welch, of Boston. The society has members in every state and active chapters in half the states. There are 10 chapters in the Chicago area.

The goal is a million active members.

* * *

WITH ITS announced program of fighting communism, the society has attracted thousands of well-meaning, conscientious men and women throughout the country.

It was founded Dec. 9, 1958, in Indianapolis, and named for John Birch, a captain in the U.S. Army, allegedly murdered in cold blood by Chinese Communists 10 days after VJ Day.

Welch gave up his career as a candy company executive to lead the society.

He was educated for four years at the University of North Carolina, two years at the U.S. Naval Academy and two years at Harvard law school. He was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for several years.

Rich Businessmen Support the Society

The society has the backing of wealthy conservative businessmen. Three former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers are listed by Welch as members of the "council" of the society.

I have seen the appeal of this society in my own suburban community of 18,000. There are four active units in the village. At a meeting two weeks ago tonight, more than 200 persons turned out.

The organization is monolithic, or, to use another word which Welch himself introduced, dictatorial. He is the absolute and unquestioned head, the "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss" needed to run such an organization. The quotes are his.

* * *

THE ABOVE facts relate closely to the following. I have obtained a copy of a book written by Welch intended for secret distribution only to the leaders of the society.

It is a 302-page, black paperbound book, reproduced by the photo-offset process, with loose-leaf binders. The title is "The Politician." The book accuses President Eisenhower of treason. NO LOC

It flatly calls him a Communist, and for 302 pages attempts to document the charge.

It accuses most of his aides—John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, Chief Justice Earl Warren, former Defense Secretary Neil McElroy and dozens of others, of being a part of a Communist conspiracy to take over this nation.

Attacks Ike as A 'Dedicated Red'

Here is an exact quote from the book:

"While I too think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist, and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct. But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

He also says of the President: ". . . there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

The immediate reaction on confronting this writing is to dismiss it as the work of a crackpot. However, the circumstances of Welch's position and influence dictate further examination.

* * *

WHEN I phoned Welch in Boston and asked him about "The Politician," he stated, "That cannot be mentioned." I told him I had read the book. I asked if it accurately reflected his views.

"I have absolutely no comment," he replied.

This will be discussed further tomorrow.

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See 62-104401-7 for copy of Politician. Reproduced and mailed

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